Government of Madras

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1090, 11th November 1925

Riots and disturbances—Uttangi—Bellary—Conduct of local officers—Appreciation of Government conveyed.

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READ—the following papers :—

I

Letter from the Inspector-General of Police, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated the 22nd October 1925, R.C. No. 613-Stat1.

have the honour to forward herewith a copy of a report received from the Superintendent of Police, Bellary, on the riot which occurred in connexion with a procession at Uttangi on the 18th instant.

ENCLOSURE.

Report from the District Superintendent of Police, Bellary, C. No. 1460/*Genl., dated* 21*st October* 1925.

[Uttangi procession—Rioting—Use of firearms by Police.]

On 18th October 1925 I arrived at Uttangi and there was then no sign of any trouble. On 19th October 1925 morning at about 7 a.m., I went through the route laid down for the procession along with the Joint Magistrate and marched my party of 40 Reserve through the village. Everything was quiet and there were not large crowds At about 8-45 a.m. the vakils for the parties appeared before the Joint Magistrate and after friendly discussion brought the points at issue down to the very narrow one of the sole objection by the obstructionist party to the use of the red umbrella by the "Swami". They could not agree on this point, and as it was one of the terms of my license granted in July and to which no objection had been raised from the very start of the controversy, I refused to alter the license. Subsequent events showed that the anti-processionists had made up their minds apart from their vakils to object to and prevent the procession on any terms whatever.

The Joint Magistrate, myself and the four vakils left our tents at about 9-30 a.m. apparently in the best of humour all round and anticipating very slight, if any, obstruction. I marched the Reserve into the village intending to meet the procession about half a mile beyond the village where it had arrived by that time. We got about half way through the village with no signs of obstruction whatever. Just as we turned a bend of the street a shower of huge stones came from the street and house tops behind us with nothing whatever in the nature of a warning. One constable fell seriously wounded just beside me and as I thought dead. I dragged him off the street and handed over his arms. By this time several other men had been hit also. I then faced a portion of the Reserve about and the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Mr. Rajagopal Ayyangar and Inspector Biddayya warned the mob which was still hurling stones, etc., faster and more furiously than ever. The only result was that Inspector Biddayya got hit and some more men. The crowd was the most threatening I have ever seen, and I momentarily expected to be rushed. The Joint Magistrate then gave me permission to open fire on the mob. I ordered portion of the party to fire with buckshot which had no effect whatever on the mob except to excite them still further if that were possible. I then fired one more volley of buckshot but still to no effect. The situation looked almost desperate by this time and I therefore fired a one section volley of ball. This had the desired effect and after a few minutes we were able to go where the "Swami" was to stop his procession. The Joint Magistrate had already attempted to go on with the Tahsildar to stop the procession but round the next bend of the street he was driven back upon the police with volley after volley of stones.

We then proceeded outside the village to where the procession was about a half mile from the entrance with no crowds in between. The Joint Magistrate there personally served a notice upon the "Swami" under section 144, C.P.C., and he at once turned his procession round. He took some time in moving off and in this time a howling mob about 2,000 strong came towards us on the track from the village. They remained at a distance of about one hundred yards for

some time but were gradually worked up to a frenzy again and made a determined rush to outflank my party and threatening at the same time to attack the retreating procession and kill the "Swami".

I had then to double the Reserve obliquely in extended order across them through the cholam fields. As soon as we started to execute this manouvre the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Hospet, got a serious blow in the head from a stone, but he was fortunately able to carry on. One of the local head constables at the same time got knocked down by a stone and the crowd set upon him while on the ground with sticks, stone and bullock yokes. The left-hand men of my line seeing this fired one round which had the effect of driving away the would-be murderers and the Tahsildar went out and rescued him in a precarious condition. After this we had to carry him with us.

The crowd baulked in this outflanking movement, then tried the other flank and we had to double back in extended order across both sides of the track. The crowd then gave up the flanks and approached from in front in a most desperate and threatening manner, brandishing all kinds of weapons. They came to within a couple of yards of my line and it looked as if I should have had to fire again for some anxious five minutes, as the crowd was altogether out of hand with the exception of one most excellent youth of the anti-procession party who single-handed exhausted himself in his efforts to reduce them to reason.

We then stayed forming a stationary rearguard for the retreating procession for a considerable time and hoping that the frenzy of the mob would fizzle out. Unfortunately, a large body of the "Swami's" followers came back and gathered about 400 or 500 yards on our right rear and stood there hurling insults and challenges at the party in front of us. The latter again tried to outflank us a great distance to get at this party of the "Swami's" followers. I could not cover the whole front with my men as they were already extended to the utmost limit consistent with safety, and as both the rival mobs were approaching each other I tried the ruse of firing a musket myself into a field between them. This ruse was successful for short periods until the challenges, etc., came again from either party.

I sent men to warn the "Swami's" party to clear out and this they did but it took them a long time before they had all gradually retreated to some distance. We then simply remained in our position for about two hours until all had gone from both sides and the country side was fairly clear. In returning to our camp I avoided the village as I thought that our return just then might give rise to another riot. On reaching the camp we found that one Sub-Inspector and about 20 local constables were kept prisoners in the village. The Joint Magistrate sent word to the karnam that he would hold him responsible for the men and to see that they got a safe conduct out of the village. While prepared to go to their assistance if they were being molested in any way, we decided that it was better to get them out of the village by tactful means if possible. Fortunately we succeeded. These men had been on ordinary street bundobast duty with lattis when we passed through the village and had I had the slightest idea of this wanton attack upon the reserve party I would have taken them with me as I went.

The man whom I mentioned in the first instance as having been left for dead I had put into a house near where he fell before leaving the village. I discovered on my return that the mob had got hold of him and were about to finish him off when the timely arrival of Mr. Narayana Rao prevented such a calamity. This gentleman still had sufficient influence with his party to induce them, at the risk of a beating to himself, to desist from their horrible intentions. I have thanked him for his timely action.

The attack, then, on the reserve was of the most wanton and unprovoked kind and came absolutely as a bombshell. The only course was to fire upon the mob which was by then in huge proportions apparently the whole thing was well and carefully planned and most of the rioters were concealed when we first went through the village. If any further proof of a well-planned campaign were necessary, it is to be found in the casualties. Among the latter there were only two from Uttangi itself and the others all come from villages up to 15 to 20 miles from Uttangi.

The casualties among the rioters were 3 killed, 3 seriously injured, and eleven slightly injured, apparently by bukshot.

The police casualties were 2 very seriously injured, 3 seriously, injured and eleven injured.

II

Letter from the District Magistrate, Bellary, to the Chief Secretary to Government dated the 20th October 1925, C. No. 1036/25.

I write to confirm the following telegram sent last night:—

"Lingayat Procession at Uttangi licensed by Dispol for to-day. Joint Magistrate wires—message begins—Procession cancelled, serious rioting, police compelled to fire, casualties villagers three killed, three seriously wounded, eleven slightly wounded. Police casualties, two very seriously injured, three seriously injured, eleven slightly injured. Medical aid [illegible] from Hadagalli. Situation

now quiet. Report follows—message ends—Proceeding Uttangi shall submit further report."

2. In Ujjini in Kudligi taluk, there are two mutts, one of the Panchachar Lingayats and the other (a smaller one) of the Sadar sect of Lingayats. There has been a longstanding feud between these two rival sects owing to the attempts of the Sadar sect to take their Guru in procession through Uttangi, a village 70 miles from Bellary, against the wishes of the Panchachars who contend that the Sadar Guru is not entitled to move in procession with the insignia of a Guru. The Sadar Guru filed a suit in the District Munsif's Court for a declaration of his right to go in procession with the insignia of a Guru. The litigation went as far as the High Court and it ended in the said Court passing an order to the effect that the Sadar Guru was entitled to proceed along the King's highway like any other subject of His Majesty with any "harmless" paraphernalia, subject to such directions as the local authorities may lawfully give to prevent obstructions of the thoroughfare and breaches of the public peace.

3. In January 1924, the Sadar Lingayats applied to my predecessor Mr. Duff for permission to take their Guru in procession with all the insignia of a Guru. Mr. Duff, after some enquiry, passed orders permitting the Guru to move in procession with certain specified paraphernalia. At this enquiry, two of the leaders of the Panchachar sect who acquiesced in the use of the said insignia by the Sadar Guru, appear to have expressly stated that they could not speak for other important leaders. Mr. Duff nevertheless permitted the procession as stated above and referred the petitioners to the District Superintendent of Police for a license under section 30 of the Police Act in accordance with the terms of his order. The District Superintendent of Police however was strongly of opinion that the issue of a license permitting the Sadar Guru to go in procession with all the insignia allowed by Mr. Duff's order was likely to result in a breach of the peace, and he accordingly issued a license permitting only such of the paraphernalia allowed by Mr. Duff's order as he considered to be "harmless". This was in July last.

4. Against this order of the District Superintendent of Police and the modified license issued by him, the Sadar Lingayats preferred a revision petition. Mr. Duff admitted the petition and posted it for hearing. While the matter was at this stage I took charge of the district on the 29th of August. As the High Court had declared the Sadar Guru's right to go in procession through the public streets like any other member of the general public with any "harmless" paraphernalia, the only question for consideration was whether the use of the insignia allowed by Mr. Duff was likely to result in a breach of the peace. On this point the District Superintendent of Police had expressed himself very strongly and as he had already issued a license restricting the Sadar Guru to the use of only such insignia as he considered harmless and as there was not the faintest suggestion from any one that the use of the insignia allowed by the license was likely to offend the feelings of the Panchachars I declined to interfere with the terms of the license. The pleader for Panchachars was apparently satisfied with this decision. The fact that the Sadar Guru soon afterwards applied to the District Superintendent of Police for permission to move in procession on the 19th instant with the paraphernalia specified in the license showed that the Sadar Guru was likewise satisfied.

5. On the 14th instant as I was camping at Hospet, the Joint Magistrate showed me a letter from the Deputy Superintendent of Police asking him to be present in Uttangi on the date of the procession as he apprehended a breach of the peace. I instructed the Joint Magistrate to camp in Uttangi as desired by the Deputy Superintendent of Police. I further told him that while it was the duty of the Magistrate to protect persons in the exercise of their lawful rights, it was open to him to suspend the exercise of such rights if he found that the force at his command was not sufficient to enforce these rights without a serious breach of the peace, and I advised him to suspend the procession under section 144, C.P.C., should such a contingency arise.

6. After my return to headquarters I had a talk with the District Superintendent of Police in the matter. He told me that the Deputy Superintendent (who has since been reverted for bad work) was an alarmist, and that the pleader on

behalf of the Panchachars had approached him with a request to cancel or further modify the license issued, but as the pleader had already acquiesed in the terms of the license and had even appeared in support of his order issuing the license he told him that he could not comply with his request. Mr. Sayers assured me that there was no reason to apprehend any breach of the peace if only the paraphernalia permitted by him were used, that there was no necessity to suspend or cancel the procession and that he would be present on the spot with a sufficient police force to regulate the procession and prevent any breach of the peace. The pleader for the Panchachars meanwhile presented a petition to me containing the same request as that made to the District Superintendent of Police, and as the Joint Magistrate was already on the spot with definite instructions how to act in the event of an emergency. I forwarded the petition to him.

7. As matters stood, there was no reason to apprehend a breach of the peace, and at the present moment I can only surmise that the necessity for opening fire must have arisen in consequence of a sudden wanton attack on the police force. Mr. Sayers who is also on the spot is a very level-headed officer and I cannot believe that he would have had recourse to firearms unless it was unavoidably necessary. I am proceeding to the spot and shall submit a further report after due enquiry.

III

Letter from the District Magistrate, Bellary, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated the 25th October 1925, No. C. 1036/25.

[Riot—Uttangi village—Hadagalli taluk—Further report submitted.]

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The facts of the occurrence, the circumstances under which the Police had to fire on the mob and the casualties and other details are fully set forth in the reports received from the Joint Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police, copies of which are enclosed.

* * * * * *

From my local enquiry and from the reports of the District Superintendent of Police, the Joint Magistrate, the Deputy Superintendent of Police and the Taluk Magistrate I am convinced that the riot was the result of a pre-meditated plan and a conspiracy. The District Superintendent of Police and the Joint Magistrate state that until the hour of the procession there was quiet in the village and there were no visible indications of any intention to obstruct the police or to create a breach of the peace. The obstruction and the stone-throwing began as the police got half-way through the village and as the procession was still half a mile from the village. The obvious intention of the rioters was to prevent the police from reaching the procession and escorting it into the village. At this stage, the Joint Magistrate, realizing the seriousness of the situation, announced his intention of cancelling the procession, but the announcement was either disbelieved or it failed to make an impression on the turbulent mob. Admonition and warning were of no avail. There was an incessant shower of stones from the housetops as well as from the street and there was a menacing crowd in the rear advancing with lathis, cart poles, and parts of plough shares. One of the constables was seriously injured and fell down unconscious and several others received by no means trivial injuries. The Joint Magistrate tried to go ahead to order the procession to turn back, but he was prevented from proceeding by volleys of stones. When eventually the mob attempted to close up with the police, the situation became critical. The odds were overwhelming and the life of the officers and men was in jeopardy. In the circumstances, a resort to firearms was unavoidable. Buck shot failed to produce the desired effect and it was the use of ball that brought the mob to their senses. The reports of all the officers on the spot show that fire was opened after due warning and that it ceased the moment it had the desired effect.

8. The subsequent conduct of the rioters, both inside and outside the village—their pursuit of the police as the latter rushed forward to turn the procession back and prevent a collision, the serious injury caused to the Deputy Superintendent of Police and the still more serious injury caused to the head constable, the repeated attempts of the mob to outflank or break through the police and get at the Sadar

procession, the attempt to make short work of the poor constable whom they had already seriously injured and the wrongful confinement of the local Sub-Inspector and his constables in the village—furnishes iudubitable proof of a determination to defy the law and to disable the police force.

If the police had not opened fire, it is practically certain that they would have been rushed and overpowered and not only would the lives of the officers have been imperilled but the mob have made for the Sadar procession, consisting of over a thousand men, and a collision would have meant certain death to the Sadar Guru and serious bloodshed on both sides. Thus, the firing, although unfortunately it resulted in the loss of three lives and injuries of varying degress of severity to fourteen others, averted a terrible catastrophe.

The injured persons are all progressing favourably.

ENCLOSURE

Letter from the Joint Magistrate, Hospet, to the District Magistrate, Bellary, dated the 20th October 1925.

[Unlawful assembly—Hadagalli taluk—Uttangi village.]

In compliance with the requisition received from the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Hospet, I proceeded to Uttangi on the 18th October 1925 and reached the place at 2-45 p.m. I found that the village was quiet and not swelled by people from outside villages. The Deputy Superintendent of Police and the Tahsildar joined me later and reported that everything was alright. A force of taluk police was quartered in the village and the armed reserve remained on the tank-bund outside the village. At about 3-30 or 4 p.m. the District Superintendent of Police arrived and together we proceeded as far as Ittigi. We also kept a lock-out for in-comers to Uttangi.

During the four-mile drive we encountered about 50 men who, being questioned, stated that they were proceeding to neighbouring villages, mostly to Morigeri, a village four miles from Uttangi. The vakils for the contesting sides were not then present. I gave instructions that I should like to see the vakil at 7 a.m. on the 19th instant, but none came to my camp.

2. So then at about 7 a.m. the District Superintendent of Police and I accompanied by the armed reserve patrolled the village along the prescribed route for the procession. It was reported that a few hundreds of people had come to the village during the previous night. The place was quiet and the people orderly. Outside the village along the prescribed route was an orderly throng of about 800 people lining the sides of the road and they stated, being questioned, that they had come to witness the procession. A great number of these were Madigas and Boyas. We were joined by the vakils of the panchachars and one or two of the leaders of that sect and on the way back through the village I tried to find out from them what attitude the Panchachars were likely to adopt. The vakils had arrived late at night and spent the night or a greater part of it talking to their clients to bring about an amicable settlement. They assured me that apart from a little disturbance they expected that the procession would proceed quietly. I appealed to both sides to show tolerance and forbearance and did all in my power to avert a hurt of religious feeling to either party.

3. At about 8-20 the District Superintendent of Police and I returned to the camp $\frac{1}{4}$ mile away and from private information received it was ascertained that the party of the Guru declared that they wanted people to precede the Guru shouting his name and also that he desired to stop at the house of each of his devotees to receive offerings. On the other hand, it was reported that the Panchachars intended to obstruct the Guru by throwing shoes at him by boys. Accordingly I sent for the respective vakils and some of the leaders to talk the matter over. The vakils for the Guru gave way on the point of shouting his name and I refused the request to allow the Guru to descend at any house. The Lingayat vakil from the other side assured me that shoe throwing as being repulsive to Lingayats would not take place and they stated that the Panchachars would like the red umbrella dispensed with. The District Superintendent of Police refused to omit the umbrella from the paraphernalia as it had not been

stated to be objectionable when he granted the license and at my tent the vakils and about 30 people tried to compromise on the point. They failed to arrive at any decision but were on the best of terms and together we went to the village at 9-30 a.m. with the object that the police should march through the village and join the Swami about half a mile out on the other side where he was timed to reach at about 9-20 or 9-30 a.m. No one anticipated any trouble not even the vakils engaged in the case. The reserve police about 40 strong were fallen in and led by the District Superintendent of Police and accompanied by me marched through the village as arranged. About 50 taluk police with lathis were posted in the village at various places to control traffic. The lower part of the village was very quiet and not very thronged. We proceeded about 2 furlongs through the village without anticipation of trouble. But on turning to the right up a street the police were hardly able to get through a crowd which obstructed their progress. The people were greatly excited and were being roused by several agitators. All were armed with lathis, some were carrying bullock yokes and parts of ploughshares and great number appeared to be intoxicated. The crowd closed in behind the police and at the time the house roofs were thronged, the crowd numbered I should say two to three thousand. It was then that I decided that it would be folly to bring the procession through as I realized that the obstruction raised would be very great and probably lead to a grave breach of the peace and rioting. So I decided to stop the procession and informed the people accordingly. The system of obstruction had been well organized and undoubtedly many of the people imported for the occasion had been concealed during the earlier visit to the village. With one accord and without any provocation or warning the police were subjected to a fusillade of stones, some resembling roofing stones. The fusillade came from both sides, from the house tops and from a menacing crowd in the rear who were advancing with the lathis referred to previously. It was direct attack without any provocation. I called upon the crowd to desist and the Deputy Superintendent of Police also did so and at the same time I produced the written order I had written previously in case of emergency and told the people that the procession would not take place. The Tahsildar on one side and my magisterial clerk on the other also called out the contents of the order but the crowd was not amenable to reason. The stone throwing increased and the crowd was again asked to desist and keep quiet as there would be no procession. The stone throwing increased and the crowd, menacing the police, closed up until the situation became critical. At this stage the police had to turn back to back as the attack was coming from all sides, and I was afraid for the safety of the police, who numbered about 40 against at least two to three thousand. The crowd could easily account for the police and then there would probably be serious bloodshed between the two rival parties. Accordingly I again warned the crowd through the magisterial clerk, Tahsildar, and Deputy Superintendent of Police that unless the attack ceased and the crowd dispersed they would be fired on. At that moment a great fusillade of boulders arrived from all sides and a constable fell down as I thought dead while many others received minor injuries including my magisterial clerk. I ordered the District Superintendent of Police to fire and he fired a volley of buck shot. This had no effect and while it was taking place I attempted to get through to order the procession to return to Talakal whence it had started. The opposition was so great with volleys of stones at me (accompanied by the Tahsildar and magisterial clerk telling the people of my order to cancel the procession) that I had to fall back on the police for protection. A second charge of buck shot was fired which also had no effect on the rioters who seemed determined to wipe out the police for they advanced with renewed vigour and the stone throwing increased. Finally a volley of ball was fired and this had the effect of making the people falter and the police were able to leave the village accompanied by stone throwing, the remaining opposition melting away. The man believed killed was taken into a house full of females where one supposed that he would be safe as the police could not take him outside the village, they being so weak in strength and requiring every available man to prevent bloodshed in case the two rival parties came into contact. The police marched along the open road and I ran ahead of them to the Swami and his procession. In the meantime the people swarmed from the village and halted outside. The police took a stand on the roadway between the village and the procession while I went on to the Swami and under section 144.

C.P.C., cancelled the license issued by the District Superintendent of Police and demanded his return. I produced the written order already prepared in case of emergency and obtained a signature to the same from his agent.

4. As soon as the Swami's procession with about one thousand followers turned, there was a great cry from the village. I returned to the police, and while there the Tahsildar dashed up saying that the crowds, which were swarming over the fields, were going to kill the Swami. The situation was serious. On the one hand the Swami had about a thousand followers while the villagers (Panchachars) in the fields must have been three thousand strong. It was obvious that unless immedi steps were taken there would be great bloodshed. This information I passed on the District Superintendent of Police who directed his reserve force across to int vene and had to extend his force. Even then parties tried to get round the flar to engage the Swami's party, while our move was to keep them in check until t Sadars reached their village. While this move was in progress showers of stor and boulders were rained on the police and it was then that the Deputy Super tendent of Police had his head broken and one of the constables was knocked dow Stones were thrown on him and he was severely beaten with lathis. His injur were so serious that he had to be brought into Hospet Hospital. While part were trying to pass the flanks of the police, the main body approached the fro of the police and refused to go back but adopted a most menacing attitude a one or two stones were thrown. It certainly looked as if resort to fire-ar would again be necessary but one Panchachar whose name will be sent to y later for recognition worked in co-operation with the police and by sheer pers nality and an hour's hard work got the people to return to the village. T Sadars having retired about a mile remained to watch developments. So as n to further excite the feelings of the Panchachars a small force of police and t Tahsildar were sent to induce them to retire to their village with the Guru. Sm parties of rival sects managed to evade the small force of police and came to blo and there were a few cases of serious injuries from lathi beatings. The poli remained in extended order in the cholam fields for about one and a half hours a when the parties had retired from view returned to camp by a circuitous route avoidi a march through the village to excite feeling.

5. In the village, in the meantime there had been certain occurrences worthy mention. The force of taluk police (one sub-inspector and twenty constables) arm with lathis only were taken to the middle of the village and virtually made prisone while a large congregation of Panchachars considered what steps to take with the The injured man left in the house with females had been discovered and had be bound to a post. The Panchachars were out to murder him but for the timely rescu by Mr. Narayana Rao, their vakil, at the risk of being maltreated himself.

6. On our return to camp, I learned that the police were still prisoners. The Tahsildar warned me that it was not safe for me to enter the village, so I sent word to the karnam (a Panchachar) that I would hold him responsible for their safety and that he must send them out to the camp at once. After an hour or so, the police came out unharmed.

7. Enquiries proved that in the village the casualties were three killed, three seriously wounded and 11 slightly wounded; while the police had six seriously injured and 11 slightly injured. The facts of the riot were wired by me to the District Magistrate, as soon as reliable information from the village could be obtained and medical aid was summoned from Hadagalli (ten miles distant). The riot subsided as suddenly as it arose, and things were more or less normal, by evening. The incomers were returning to their villages as quickly as possible and this morning unaccompanied I toured the village and found everything normal.

8. To prove what an organized thing the riot was, it is only necessary to examine the casualties. Of the 17 village casualties, only two belong to Uttangi, while some belong to villages 20 miles away (Kottur). Six of the casualties belong to Sogi and some to Morigeri. In my opinion the showers of stones we encountered were really intended for the procession had it come in. The people had been roused to blood frenzy and nothing could stop them. So when the police appeared on the scene, they received the treatment that was reserved for the

Swami. I am convinced that had the mob not been fired on most of the police would have been killed or seriously injured and then there would have been unlimited bloodshed between the parties outside the village. The police force was totally insufficient to deal with such a situation and it is fortunate that when both parties were out in the fields that neither side rushed at the police because nothing could have stopped them. As I have said before, the one Panchachar saved the situation. There is one matter to be thankful for and that is that the Guru never got nearer to the village than half a mile. Had he entered the the village, there would have been wholesale slaughter which nothing could prevent as the people were determined to have him whether he came with paraphernalia or not. It appears to me that people had been summoned from the whole countryside in order to riot and that they were bent on causing mischief, and would not be deterred. This is proved by the fact that although the people were notified that the procession would not take place, they still persisted with their unwarranted attack upon the police and Government officials. During the riot, the police made two arrests, but could not hold their prisoners. Up to the present, they have identified 21 persons as being concerned in the riot. To prove the determination of the rioters it is only necessary to state that one of the wounded (now removed to Bellary for treatment) was found to have five buck shot wounds and one ball wound which proves that he still presisted in attacking even after being wounded. The three dead received ball wounds in front of head, chest and abdomen respectively, and the other wounded examined all bore frontal wounds.

Order—No. 1090, Public, dated 11th November 1925.

The Government have perused the reports of the Inspector-General of Police and the District Magistrate of Bellary regarding the disturbances at Uttangi on the 19th October 1925. The resistance by violence to the execution of the Police Superintendent's order appears to have been premediated and carefully planned and the Government are satisfied that but for the action of the Subdivisional Magistrate, Hospet, and of the District Superintendent of Police assisted by their subordinates, the riot would have had disastrous consequences attended by a loss of life far in excess of that which actually occurred. The Government have no doubt that if fire had not been opened not only would the Police themselves have been in imminent danger but it would have been impossible to protect the Guru and the followers of the procession from attack by the rioters. In the circumstances they do not find that more force was used by the authorities than was necessary to keep command of the situation and to protect the lives of the party who had been authorized to conduct the procession.

2. The Government desire to place on record their appreciation of the presence of mind and forbearance with which Mr. E. W. Doig, I.C.S., the Subdivisional Magistrate, Mr. F. Sayers, the District Superintendent of Police, and Mr. Kuvalavalli South Rajagopala Ayyangar, the Deputy Superintendent of Police, handled the situation, and they are particularly pleased to note the staunchness with which the rank and file of the Reserve Police supported their officers. Their attention has also been drawn by Mr. Doig and Mr. Sayers to the good work done by Mr. C. M. Biddayya, the Inspector of Police, the Tahsildar of Hadagalli and the magisterial clerk of the Subdivisional Magistrate. The Government also desire to place on record their high appreciation of the conduct of Mr. Narayana Rao, the pleader for the Panchachars, in protecting at considerable risk to himself the wounded reserve policeman who had been left in the village when the main body moved off to meet the Sadar Guru and of the action of the Panchachar who co-operated with the police in inducing the rioters to disperse.

(By order of the Governor in Council).

A. Y. G. CAMPBELL,
Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector-General of Police.
" District Magistrate, Bellary.
Copy to the Judicial Department.
" Revenue Department.
Editors' Table.

C.

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TO

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A.B.—The name of the Sender, if telegraphed, is written after the text.

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TO

Recd. here at H. M

Not to blame Manager ...

... Bhatt

... Bhatt ... Sapthan ... Mount

Office Clerk

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Public department.

Telegram (Express)

To

Home

Report received Lingayat procession at Uttangi Bellary district licensed by ~~dispeeal~~ dispol for today cancelled. and Serious rioting police compelled to fire. ~~and~~ Casualties (among) villagers three killed three seriously wounded (and) eleven slightly wounded. Pol. ~~coli~~ casualties, two very seriously injured. three seriously injured (and) eleven slightly injured ~~and~~ situation now quiet.

20/10/25.

C.F.—29.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Received ..... 191 . *Registered* ..... 191 .

Subject.

Riot - Uttangi - Bellary District - Report submitted.

DEPUTY SECRETARY 23 OCT. 1925 CHIEF SECRETARIAT

ENCLOSURES.
No. 5 & 6
Spare copies

No.

Station Madras., *Dated the* October 1925. ~~19xx~~

From (Name) F. Armitage, Esquire.

(Designation) Inspector-General of Police.

To The Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Judicial (Police) Department.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of a report received from the Superintendent of Police, Bellary, on the riot which occurred in connection with a procession at Uttangi on the 18th instant. A copy of the Superintendent's order dated 3rd July 1925 on the conduct of this procession will follow.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

for Inspr.-Genl. of Police

S.C.M.

Copy of letter C.No.1460/Genl. of '25, dated 21st October 1925, from F. Sayers, Esquire, District Superintendent of Police, Bellary, to the Inspector-General of Police. Madras.

Uttangi Procession - Rioting - Use of Firearms by Police.

On 18-10-25 I arrived at Uttangi and there was then no sign of any trouble. On 19-10-25 morning at about 7.0 A.M. I went through the route laid down for the procession along with the Joint Magistrate and marched my party of 40 Reserve through the village. Every thing was quiet and there were not large crowds. At about 8.45 A.M. the Vakils for the parties appeared before the Joint Magistrate and after friendly discussion brought the points at issue down to the very narrow one of the sole objection by the obstructionist party to the use of the red umbrella by the "swami". They could not agree on this point and as it was one of the terms of my licence granted in July and to which no objection had been raised from the very start of the controversy, I refused to alter the licence. Subsequent events showed that the anti- processionists had made up their minds apart from their vakils to object to and prevent the procession in any terms whatever.

The Joint Magistrate, myself and the four vakils left our tents at about 9-30 A.M. apparently in the best of humour all round and anticipating very slight, if any, obstruction. I marched the Reserve into the village intending to meet the procession about half a mile beyond the village where it had arrived [illegible]. We got about half way through the village with no signs of obstruction whatever. Just as we turned a bend of the street a shower of huge stones came from the street and house-tops behind us with nothing whatever in the nature of a warning. One constable fell seriously wounded just beside me and as I thought dead. I dragged him off the street and handed over his arms. By this time several other men had been hit also. I then faced a portion of the Reserve about and the Deputy Superintendent of Police Mr. Rajagopal Ayyangar and Inspector Biddayya warned the mob which was still hurling stones &c. faster and more furiously than ever. The only result was that

Inspector Biddayya got hit and some more men. The crowd was the most threatening I have ever seen and I momentarily expected to be rushed. The Joint Magistrate then gave me permission to op... fire on the mob. I ordered portion of the party to fire with buckshot which had no effect whatever on the mob except to excite them still further if that were possible. I then fired one more volley of buckshot but still to no effect. The situation looked almost desperate by this time and I therefore fired a one-section volley of ball. This had the desired effect and after a few minutes we were able to go where the 'Swami' was to stop his procession. The Joint Magistrate had already attempted to go on with the Thasildar to stop the procession but round the next bend of the street he was driven back upon the police with volley after volley of stones.

We then proceeded outside the village to where the procession was about half a mile from the entrance with no crowds in between. The Joint Magistrate there personally served a notice upon the 'swami' under Sec. 144, C.P.C. and he at once turned his procession round. He took some time in moving off and in this time a howling mob about 2000 strong came towards us on the track from the village. They remained at a distance of about one hundred yards for some time but were gradually worked up to a frenzy again and made a determined rush to outflank my party and threatening at the same time to attack the retreating procession and kill the 'Swami'.

I had then to double the Reserve obliquely in extended order across them through the cholam fields. As soon as we started to execute this manouvre the Dy. S.P., Hospet, got a serious blow in the head from a stone, but he was fortunately able to carry on. One of the local Head constables at the same time got knocked down by a stone and the crowd set upon him while on the ground with sticks stones and bullock yokes. The left-hand man of my line seeing this

fired one round which had the effect of driving away the would-be murderers and the Thasildar went out and rescued him in a precarious condition. After this we had to carry him with us.

5 The crowd baulked in this outflanking movement then tried the other flank and we had to double back in extended order across both sides of the track. The crowd then gave up the flanks and approached from in front in a most desperate and threatening manner, brandishing all kinds of weapons. They came to within a couple of yards of my line and it looked as if I should have had to fire again for some anxious five minutes, as the crowd was altogether out of hand - with the exception of one most excellent youth of the anti-procession party who single-handed exhausted himself in his efforts to reduce them to reason. I have made a note of this youth's name as I consider he deserves a handsome reward for his efforts which I personally think were instrumental in avoiding further bloodshed.

6 we then stayed forming a stationary rearguard for the retreating procession for a considerable time and hoping that the frenzy of the mob would fizzle out. Unfortunately, a large body of the "swami's followers came back and gathered about 400 or 500 yards on our right rear and stood there hurling insults and challenges at the party in front of us. The latter again tried to outflank us a great distance to get at this party of the "swami's" followers. I could not cover the whole front with my men as they were already extended to the utmost limit consistent with safety, and as both the rival mobs were approaching each other I tried the ruse of firing a musket myself into a field betwe... [illegible]. This ruse was successful for short periods until the challenges &c. came again from either party.

7 I sent men to warn the "swami's" party to clear out and this they did but it took them a long time before they ha... gradually retreated to some distance. We then simply remained in our position for about two hours until all had gone from both sides and the country side was fairly clear. In returning to our camp I avoided the village as I thought that our return

ive rise to another riot. On reaching the camp we found that 1 S, nd about 20 Local constables were kept prisoners in the village. oint Magistrate sent word to the Karnam that he would hold him res. onsible for the men and to see that they got a safe conduct out of he village. While prepared to go to their assistance if they were b ng molested in any way, we decided that it was better to get them ut of the village by tactful means if possible. Fortunately we ucceeded. These men had been on ordinary street bundobast duty ith lathis when we passed through the village and had I had the ightest idea of this wanton attack upon the Reserve party I would ave taken them with me as I went.

The man whom I mentioned in the first instance as having been left for dead I had put into a house near where he fell before leaving the village. I discovered on my return that the mob had got hold of him and were about to finish him off when the timely arrival of Mr. Narayana Rao prevented such a calamity. This gentleman still had sufficient influence with his party to induce them, at the risk of a beating to himself, to desist from their horrible intentions. have thanked him for his timely action.

The attack, then, on the Reserve was of the most wanton nd unprovoked kind and came absolutely as a bombshell. The only ourse was to fire upon the mob which was by then in huge proportions pparently the whole thing was well and carefully planned and most of the rioters were concealed when we first went through the village. If any further proof of a well-planned campaign were necessary, it is to be found in the casualties. Amongst the latter there were only two from Uttangi itself and the others all come from villages up to 15 and 20 miles from Uttangi.

The casualties amongst the rioters were 3 killed. 3 seriously injured, and eleven slightly injured. apparently by buckshot.

The Police casualties were 2 very seriously injured. 5 seriously. and eleven injured.

Although no arrests were made, the local Police can identify many of the rioters and a case had been registered under

the appropriate sections. This is in the hands of Dy. S.P. Hospet the Inspector of Harpanahalli and Inspector Biddayya of Hospet who has previous experience of those parts.

Before closing I would like to add a word for the coolness and untiring tact and energy of Messrs. Rajagopal Ayyangar and Biddayya. The Thasildar of Hadagali was a host in himself and the Magisterial Clerk of the Joint Magistrate was an untiring aid throughout the whole unfortunate incident.

****

S.G.M.

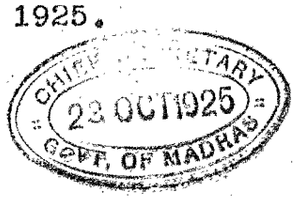
E.I. Robertson
for Inspr.-Genl. of Police.

CONFIDENTIAL.

CNo 1036/25.

Office of the District Magistrate,

Bellary Dated 20th October, 1925.



From

Khan Bahadur M. Bazl-ul-lah Saheb Bahadur,
C.I.E.,O.B.E.,

District Magistrate, Bellary.

To

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Fort St. George.

Sir,

I write to confirm the following telegram sent last night.

"Lingayat Procession at Uttangi licensed by Dispol for today. Joint Magistrate wires-message begins -- Procession cancelled, serious rioting, police [illegible] villagers three killed, three seriously wounded, eleven slightly wounded. Police casualties, two very seriously injured, three seriously injured, eleven slightly injured. Medical aid --- sought from Hadagalli. Situation now quiet. Report follows - message ends -- Proceeding Uttangi shall submit further report."

2. In Ujjini in Kudligi Taluk there are two mutts, one of the Panchachar Lingavats and the other (a smaller one) of the Sadar sect of Lingayats. There has been a long standing feud between these two rival sects owing to the attempts of the Sadar sect to take their Guru in procession through Uttangi, a village 70 miles from Bellary, against the wishes of the Pancha chars who contend that the Sadar Guru is not entitled to move in procession with the insignia of a Guru. The Sadar Guru filed a suit in the District Munsiff's Court for a declaratio of his right to go in procession with the insignia of a Guru. The litigation went as far as the High Court and it ended in the said Court passing an order to the effect that the Sadar Guru was entitled to proceed along the King's highway like any

other subject of his Majesty with any "harmless paraphernalia, subject to such directions as the local authorities may lawfully give to prevent obstructions of the thoroughfare and breaches of the public peace.

3. In January 1924, the Sadar Lingayats applied to my predecessor Mr. Duff for permission to take their Guru in procession with all the insignia of a Guru. Mr. Duff, after some enquiry, held that as Collector of the district, he could recognise the Sadar Guru as a Guru and could recognise his right to use certain insignia. He accordingly passed orders permitting (him) to move in procession with certain specified paraphernalia. At this enquiry, two of the leaders of the Panchachar sect who acquiesced in the use of the said insignia by the Sadar Guru, appear to have expressly stated that they could not speak for other important leaders. Mr. Duff neverthless permitted the procession as stated above and referred the petitioners to the District Superintendent of Police for a license under Section 30 of the Police Act in accordance with the terms of his order. The District Superintendent of Police however was strongly of opinion that the issue of a license permitting the Sadar Guru to go in procession with all the insignia allowed by Mr. Duff's order was likely to result in a breach of the peace, and he accordingly issued a license permitting only such of the paraphernalia allowed by Mr. Duff's order as he considered to be "harmless". This was in July last.

4. Against this order of the District Superintendent of Police and the modified license issued by him, the Sadar Lingayats preferred a revision petition. Mr. Duff admitted the petition and posted it for hearing. While the matter was at this stage, I took charge of the district on the 29th of August. After hearing the vakils on both sides, Mr. P. Siva Rao M.L.C., in support of the District Superintendent of Police's order and Mr. Sankaralingam Pillai in support of the revision petition, I held that it was not open to a Collector or District Magistrate

to "recognise" any Guru or to define the proper insignia to be adopted by religious functionaries on occasions of procession. As however the High Court had declared the Sadar Guru's right to go in procession through the public streets like any other member of the general public with any "harmless" paraphernalia, the only question for consideration was whether the use of the insignia allowed by Mr. Duff was likely to result in a breach of the peace. On this point, the District Superintendent of Police had expressed himself very strongly and as he had already issued a license restricting the Sadar Guru to the use of only such insignia as he considered harmless and as there was not the faintest suggestion from Mr. Siva Rao or from any one else that the use of the insignia allowed by the license was likely to offend the feelings of the Panchachars, I decline to interfere with the terms of the license (Mr. Siva Rao, the Agent for Panchachars) was apparently satisfied with this decision. The fact that the Sadar Guru soon afterwards applied to the District Superintendent of Police for permission to move in procession on the 19th instant with the paraphernalia specified in the license showed that the Sadar Guru was likewise satisfied.

5. On the 14th instant as I was camping at Hospet, the Joint Magistrate showed me a letter from the Deputy Superintendent of Police asking him to be present in Uttangi on the date of the procession as he apprehended a breach of the peace. I instructed the Joint Magistrate to camp in Uttangi as desired by the Deputy Superintendent of Police. I further told him that while it was the duty of the Magistrate to protect persons in the exercise of their lawful rights, it was open to him to suspend the exercise of such rights if he found that the force at his command was not sufficient to enforce those rights without a serious breach of the peace, and I advised him to suspend the procession under Section 144 C.P.C. should such a contingency arise.

6. After my return to headquarters I had a talk with the

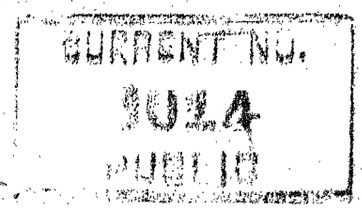
District Superintendent of Police in the matter. He told me that the Deputy Superintendent (who has since been reverted for bad work) was an alarmist, and that Mr. Siva Rao on behalf of the Panchachars had approached him with a request to cancel or further modify the license issued but as Mr. Siva Rao had already acquiesced in the terms of the license and had even -- appeared in support of his order issuing the license, he told him that he could not comply with his request. Mr. Sayers -- assured me that there was no reason to apprehend any breach of the peace if only the paraphernalia permitted by him were used, that there was no necessity to suspend or cancel the procession and that he would be present on the spot with a sufficient police force to regulate the procession and prevent any breach of the peace. Mr. Siva Rao meanwhile presented a petition to me containing the same request as that made to the District Superintendent of Police. and as the Joint Magistrate, was already on the spot with definite instructions how to act in the event of an emergency, I forwarded the petition to him.

7. As matters stood, there was no reason to apprehend a breach of the peace and at the present moment, I can only surmise that the necessity for opening fire must have arisen in consequence of a sudden wanton attack on the Police force. Mr. Sayers who is also on the spot is a very level headed officer and I cannot believe that he would have had recourse to firearms unless it was unavoidably necessary. I am proceeding to the spot and shall submit a further report after due enquiry.

A.D.20-10.

District Magistrate.

PRIVATE SECRETARY'S OFFICE, MADRAS.



Memo. No. 3-103/25.

Transferred to the Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, for favour of disposal.

ENCLOSURES :

(By order of His Excellency the Governor.

Private Secretary.

MADRAS GOVERNOR'S CAMP,

The 20. 10. 1925.

POSTS TELEGRAPHS.

NOTICE

This form must accompany any inquiry made respecting this Telegram.

Charges to pay.	
Rs.	As.

Stamp.

Handed in at (Office of Origin.)	Date	Hour.	Minute.	Service Instructions.	Words.

Recd. here at H. M

TO

The G.O.C.

G.B.—The name of the Sender, if telegraphed, is written after the text.

Aslan Bros.—Printers—Cal.—1274—26-11-24—1,50,000—Bks.

F. Sayers Esquire.

Bellary

Dated 3rd July 1918.

DEPUTY SECRETARIAT
23 OCT. 1922
CHIEF SECRETARIAT

SUBJECT -- Procession at Uttangi.

-oOOoo-

CURRENT NO.
8011
PUBLIC

READ: All the available literature on the subject.

HEARD: Mr. Sankaralingam Pillai on behalf of his client and the Hon'ble Mr. P. Siva Rao contra.

---

1. Mr. Sankaralingam presented a petition requesting a license from me under Sec. 30 of the Police Act for his client who calls himself Gurusanthaswami, Pattadaswami of Sirigeri Mutt of Ujjini, to go in procession through Uttangi Village with certain insignia of the office of the Guru of the community known as the Sadhu Lingayats, and requesting Police assistance to take the said procession.

2. Before going into the question of granting a license and fixing the terms thereof, I must state briefly the position regarding this procession.

3. There has been litigation going on touching the right privileges and titles of Mr. Sankaralingam's client for a considerable number of years. Courts of all degrees and the Executive Heads of this District have passed orders on the subject. Of the Civil Court's orders the petitioner relies upon O.S. No. 32/1918 of Bellary District Court and the order in the interim injunction petition of the same Court in I.A. 237/1918.

The Counter-petitioners rely upon the orders contained in O.S. 804/1910 and A.S. 91 & 101/1912 both of which are referred to finally in S.A. 2496 & 2497/1913 of the Madras High Court.

So far as I can see the object of all this litigation was to establish the right and title of the petitioner to go in procession as the recognized Guru of the sect of Sadhu Lingayats and the object of the Counter-petitioners was to prevent his

doing so in order that he should not trespass on the established rights and religious privileges of their own Guru.

Also, so far as I can see from the various orders passed the Courts refused to recognize the petitioner as a Guru on the ground that they had no power to do so and on account of the rule of the Government not to interfere in religious matters.

The net result therefore is that I must be guided by the ruling of the High Court that the petitioner has got the right to go in procession not as a Guru, real or pretended, but as an ordinary subject of His Majesty with any harmless paraphernalia subject to the discretion of the Magistracy to issue such orders as they think fit to prevent obstruction of thoroughfares and breaches of the public peace. In other words the onus is thrown upon the Executive of deciding what paraphernalia is harmless and what is not.

4. I must therefore look at the problem from the point of view of the Executive using the powers at their command for the purposes mentioned above.

In order to do this I must go into the more recent history of happenings in connection with this dispute.

5. I shall only go back as far as 1916 although attempts have been made to take this procession on the lines requested by the petitioner since 1891 or even earlier.

In 1916 the petitioner was prohibited from processing as a Guru with insignia under Sec. 144 Cr. P.C. owing to an anticipated breach of the peace should he do so.

In 1917 the Joint Magis[illegible], however, passed an order that the petitioner should be allowed all assistance for the safe conduct of his procession. Upon this the police requested the Joint Magistrate to issue orders to the petitioner to take out a license for his procession and this was accordingly done. Thereupon arose a correspondence between the District Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate with the result that the District Magistrate ordered the withdrawal of the "Safe Conduct"

order of the Joint Magistrate observing: "This is a matter within the discretion of the District Superintendent of Police or Deputy Superintendent of Police who issues the license as contemplated in Sec. 30(2) of the Police Act V of 1861." Subsequently a license was issued excluding certain emblems and the petitioner processed through three villages in 1918 but was met with stout resistance at Uttangi where several thousands of the Panchachar Lingayets assembled to prevent the further tour of the petitioner. The latter then applied for a Police Guard to conduct him but the District Superintendent of Police refused the same on the ground that the Police could not at the time be spared and ordered the Deputy Superintendent of Police to cance his license. This was done. Whereupon the District Magistrate pointed out that the Police Officer had no power to cancel or refuse a license, but that he could make the terms such as he deemed advisable to prevent a breach of the peace. The Deputy Superintendent of Police then prescribed certain conditions for the license which were apparently not agreeable to the petitione and after much more petitioning and counter-petitioning the matt again came before the District Magistrate in 1920. This officer was requested to hold an enquiry into the conditions of the license and this he refused to do saying that it was no part of his duty to adjudicate on such matters. The concluding portion of this order was "the attempt to issue a license then breaks down, as the conditions are the essential part of such a license and I cannot know what the conditions should be. No license will be issued and the parties are advised not to do anything which may occasion a breach of the peace." The same officer was again approached by the petitioner in 192 [illegible] issued the following order: "The Guru has announced his intention o making his procession on the 21st instant. The District Superintendent of Police, the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Hospet the Joint Magistrate. Hospet, the Deputy Magistrate. Rayadrug, the Taluk Magistrates of Hadagali and Hadagi and the Police Inspectors are therefore requested to be on the alert to prevent a breach of the peace by all lawful means and with the leas

The result of this order was that a force of Reserve Police proceeded to the spot and also the Deputy Superintendent and Magistrate Joint and Taluk.

The procession started and opposition was shown at one place before it reached Uttangi, whereupon the Police fixed their bayonets further opposition was shown near Uttangi itself and a crowd variously estimated at from 5 to 6 thousand Panchachar Lingayets arrived there. The end was that the District Magistrate in response to information or news received, wired from Bellary to the Joint Magistrate to prohibit the further advance of the procession. Subsequently the Deputy Superintendent of Police was found fault with for even having ordered his men to fix their bayonets.

The same District Magistrate subsequently requested the Government to make the order under 144 Cr. P.C. prohibiting the procession permanent. I have no record to show what orders the Government passed, but presumably they declined to accept the recommendation of the Magistrate.

In 1922 a further attempt was made to take the procession and the then District Magistrate passed an order which included the following: "All that the Courts have decided is that the Swami has a right, like everyone else, to go through the public street. This does not confer upon him the right to go about with paraphernalia considered by others to be injurious to their feelings. Nobody, so far as I know objects to his going about as a private citizen or to his ministering to his disciples so long as he does so without certain paraphernalia. At present, as it appears to me, I could only secure his passage with his paraphernalia at the probable cost of bloodshed. I have no pre-possession in favour of or against the Swami going in procession my sole preoccupation is to prevent a riot and so long as in my opinion the procession is likely to provoke a riot, so long I shall continue to prohibit it."

That, so far as I can gather was the end of the matter until it arose in its present form as a new one. The District Magistrate in his executive capacity recognized formally the claims of the petitioner to the title and privileges of a Guru and in a subsequent order D.Dis. C.No.1036/25 A-2, dated [illegible] prescribed the route and

Against the order recognizing the petitioner an appeal was taken to the Government who in G.O.Misc. 360/1925 passed the followi order: "The Government do not concern themselves with questions of r ligious rites and the insignia of Gurus; at the same time they canno interfere with the discretion of the District Magistrate as to the maintenance of peace and order in his District. The Government are therefore not prepared to interfere with the order appealed against." Therefore the order in D.Dis. C.No.1036/25, A-2 dated 6-3-1925 stand: is so far as it relates to the taking of a license for the procession

That order however contains the conditions on which the said license is to be issued and lays down the route and insignia to be allowed. As the authority in whose discretion the issuing of the terms of the license rests I take it that I am not bound by that orde It has twice been held in connection with this same dispute that it i for the Police Superintendent to lay down the terms of the license when a license is considered necessary.

6. Mr. Sankaralingam advances the theory that any ordinary subject of His Majesty can go through the streets with ten elephents if he can command their attendance and caparisoned with any jewels a emblems he may wish to wear. I agree with him that this is so but on so long as there are no attendant circumstances which might hurt the susceptibilities of other subjects of His Majesty in such a manner as might lead to a breach of the peace. To take two examples

(a) It is legal for Hindus to take processions with music while passing Mohammadan mosques.

(b) It is legal for Mohammadans to take kine decorated through the streets preparatory to slaughter of the same.

These are elementary rights: yet they are set aside every year in India because other subjects object to them and because they are likely, if exercised, to lead to breaches of the peace, and not because they are unlawful. Either of these things is "Harmless" when viewed by the persons wishing to do them but very different when viewed by the persons who object to them. Who is to say what is "Harmful" and objectionable to his susceptibilities but the person concerned? The history of the world shows that all sorts of things

or another. It is the privilege of the followers of all religions to hate those of others for the love of God. Sweet reasonableness and the spirit of compromise are invariably lacking in matters where religious sentiments and susceptibilities are in question and I personally do not expect in the present matter to graft that spirit on to a plant which is obviously alien to its growth. Every-body is reasonable until he himself is touched on the raw.

7. Mr. Sankaralingam admits that his client's visits to his diciples will be equally efficacious whether he goes with the insignia and emblems when he wishes to use or without them.

8. Taking all the circumstances and history of this business therefore, into consideration I am forced to the irresistible conclusion that if the petitioner goes in procession with any of the insignia of a Guru there will undoubtedly be a breach of the peace and possible bloodshed, if the police were to attempt in any way to take the procession with the help of force. While I hold this opinion I should be sadly lacking in my duties as head of the Police of this District if I issued a license for the procession in any other than the terms which follow. I have, perhaps, gone outside my province in setting forth the basis of my order at such length, but I consider that the petitioner is entitled to my reasons in the place of a curt license to process without insignia.

O R D E R.

Gurusanthaswami, Pattadaswami of Sirigeri Mutt of Ujjini and now represented before me by Mr. Sankaralingam Pillai, vakil, be hereby permitted to go in procession through the village of Uttangi upon the following conditions:-

I. That he gives me seven days clear notice of his date of procession.

II. That he follows the route prescribed below.

III. That he does not use, carry, wear, or exhibit or allow his followers to carry or exhibit during the procession any one or other of the following insignia or emblems.

(a) Nandi Dhwajam
(b) Vyasa-Hastam
(c) Cross-Palanquin
(d) Pancha-Kalasam
(e) Simha-Lalatam
(f) Sweta-Chamaram
(g) Chelavadi - Ganta
(h) Chamara
(i) Aphthagiri
(k) Nagari
(l) Caggari-Kattiga
(m) Makara Thorana
(n) Kahli.

IV. That he does not permit "Kudugas" to be recited or sung during the procession.

V. That the procession should not take more than six hours for its duration from start to finish and should be completed at least one hour before sunset.

R O U T E.

From the village well at the South East corner of the village along the Eastern street northwards as far as the well at the junction of that street with the main street in which the large Hanuman Temple stands, thence along this main street Westwards as far as the street leading to the tank, thence out of the village Northwards via the street leading to the tank.

(Sd.) F. Sayers.
It. Supdt. of Police.

---***

K No.

Forwarded to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, Judicial (Police) Department, in continuation of this office letter R.C. No.613/Statl. of '25, dated 22nd October 1925.

for Inspr.-Genl. of Police.

Office of the
Inspector-General of Police,
Madras, 23rd October 1925.

S.G.M. 23

5060
PUBLIC

C No 1036/25

Bellary Collector's Office,
Camp H O S P E T,
Dated 25th October, 1925.

DEPUTY SECRETARY
27 OCT. 1925
CHIEF SECRETARIAT

From

Khan Bahadur M. Bazl-ul-lah Saheb Bahadur,
C.I.E., O.B.E.,

District Magistrate, Bellary,

To

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Fort St. George.

Sir,

Subject:- Riot - Uttangi Village - Hadagalli Taluk - Further report submitted.

I submit the further report promised in my letter No C. 1036-25- dated 20-10-1925.

2. The facts of the occurrence, the circumstances under which the Police had to fire on the mob and the casualties - and other details are fully set forth in the reports received from the Joint Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police, copies of which are enclosed.

3. I visited Uttangi village and after inspecting the route laid down for the Sadar Lingayat's Procession, the --- scene of the riot and the place where the procession was -- turned back, held an enquiry. All the persons injured except two belong to other villages and they would have us believe that they went to Uttangi to witness the procession, that they received the injuries as they were standing on the housetops or in the street sight-seeing and that they do not know why the Police opened fire. Almost all of them affect ignorance as to whether there was any stone throwing, but -- admit that the procession was at the time of the firing about half a mile from the village and that the Police were going to

meet the procession and escort it through the village. ---- Only two of them admit that there was stone pelting, and that as the mob did not disperse though warned to do so, the Police opened fire. The statement that they came to Uttangi to --- witness the procession is too good to be believed. Most of them are Panchachars and it is extremely unlikely that they - came all the way to Uttangi from villages as far distant as - thirty miles to grace the Sadar procession with their presence. Moreover, as already stated, the procession was at the time of the riot half a mile away from the village. Uttangi is a --- Panchachar stronghold containing about three hundred Panchachar houses against about sixty Sadar houses, and the fact that all - the three killed and all the injured except two belong to other villages shows that these outsiders came to Uttangi either as - confederates or as hirelings of the local Panchachar leaders.

4. Most of the local Panchachar leaders deny their --- presence in or near the mob and express their consequent inability to account for the use of firearms; but from their demeanour, it is evident that they do not want to make any statement that might be construed into an admission of their participation in the riot. in view of the charge of Rioting which is bound to be laid sooner or later. At the same time, it is not improbable that some of them remained in the back-ground and did not take - an active part in the riot, although there can be little doubt that they incited the mob or were privy to the riot. Two of them - stated at a later stage of the enquiry that the stone throwing began after the firing, that as the mob did not disperse, the local Police hit them with their lattics, that this infuriated the mob, that the Police thereupon opened fire and that the mob retaliated by throwing stones. But from their divergent statements on points of detail, it is clear that this version is a later development. One of these two leaders was present ---

at my earliest enquiry in the village, but would not come forward to make a statement. His explanation that he arrived at the close of the enquiry and that it did not occur to him to state what he has now stated is a transparent evasion. He is one of the persons who showed me the houses -- where the injured persons were and he had ample time and opportunity to make the present statement if it was really true. The other Panchachar leader had the fairness to admit that -- the loss of three lives was nothing compared to the serious - loss of life that would have occurred if the Panchachars had not been prevented from attacking the Sadar procession, although he wound up his statement by saying that it would have been better if even those three lives had not been lost.

5. From my local enquiry and from the reports of the District Superintendent of Police, the Joint Magistrate, the Deputy Superintendent of Police and the Taluk Magistrate, I am convinced that the riot was the result of a premeditated plan and a conspiracy on the part of the Panchachars of Uttangi. The District Superintendent of Police and the Joint Magistrate state that until the hour of the procession, there was quiet in the village and there were no visible indications of any - intention to obstruct the Police or to create a breach of the peace. The obstruction and the stone throwing began as the Police got half way through the village and as the procession was still half a mile from the village. The obvious intention of the rioters was to prevent the Police from reaching the procession and escorting it into the village. At this stage, the Joint Magistrate realising the seriousness of the situation, announced his intention of cancelling the procession, but the announcement was either disbelieved or it --- failed to make an impression on the turbulent mob. Admonition and warning were of no avail. There was an incessant shower of stones from the housetops as well as from the --- street and there was a menacing crowd in the rear --------

advancing with latties. cart poles, and parts of plough --- shares. One of the constables was seriously injured and fell down unconscious and several others received by no means --- trivial injuries. The Joint Magistrate tried to go ahead - to order the procession to turn back, but he was prevented - from proceeding by volleys of stones. When eventually the mob attempted to close up with the Police, the situation became - critical. The odds were overwhelming and the life of the Officers and men was in jeopardy. In the circumstances, a resort to firearms was unavoidable. Buck shot failed to produce the desired effect and it was the use of ball that brought the mob to their senses. The reports of all the Officers on the spot show that fire was opened after due warning and that it ceased the moment it had the desired effect.

6. The subsequent conduct of the rioters both inside -- and outside the village — their pursuit of the Police as the latter rushed forward to turn the procession back and prevent a collision. the serious injury caused to the Deputy Superintendent of Police and the still more serious injury caused to the Head Constable, the repeated attempts of the mob to outflank or break through the Police and get at the Sadar procession. the attempt to make short work of the poor [illegible] Constable whom they had already seriously injured and the wrongful confinement of the local Sub Inspector and his constables in the village — furnishes indubitable proof of a determination to defy the law and to disable the Police force

7. If the Police had not opened fire, it is practically certain that they would have been rushed and overpowered and - not only would the lives of the Officers have been imperilled but the mob would have made for the Sadar procession. ------ consisting of over a thousand men and a collision would have - meant certain death to the Sadar Guru and serious bloodshed - on both sides. Thus, the firing, although unfortunately [illegible]

resulted in the loss of three lives and injuries of varying degrees of severity to fourteen others, averted a terrible catastrophe.

8. The injured persons are all progressing favourably.

District Magistrate.

A.D. 25-10.

Magisterial Department.

From

E.W. Doig Esq., I.C.S.,

Joint Magistrate, Hospet.

To

The District Magistrate,

B E L L A R Y.

No. dated 20-10-1925.

Sir,

Unlawful Assembly- Hadagalli Taluk- Uthangi village.

In compliance with the requisition received from the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Hospet, I proceeded to Uthangi on the 18th October 1925 and reached the place at 2-45 P.M. I found that the village was quiet and not swelled by people from outside villages. The Deputy Superintendent of Police and the Tahsildar joined me later and reported that everything was airight. A force of taluk police was quartered in the village and the armed reserve remained on the tankbund outside the village. At about 3-30 or 4 P.M. the District Superintendent of Police arrived and together we proceeded as far as Ittigi. We also kept a look out for incomers to Uthangi.

During the 4 mile drive we encountered about 50 men who being questioned stated that they were proceeding to neighbouring villages, mostly to Morigeri, a village 4 miles from Uthang The vakils for the contesting sides were not then present. I gave instructions that I should like to see the vakils at 7 A.M. on the 19th instant but none came to my camp.

2. So then at about 7 A.M. the District Superintendent of Police and I accompanied by the armed reserve patrolled the village along the prescribed route for the procession. It was reported that a few hundreds of people had come to the village during the previous night. The place was quiet and the people orderly. Outside the village along the prescribed route was an orderly throng of about 800 people lining the sides of the road and they stated, being questioned, that they had come to witness the procession. A great number of these were Madigas and Boyas. We were joined by the vakils of the Panchachars and one or two of the leaders of that Sect and on the way back through the village I tried to find out from them what attitude the Panchachars were likely to adopt. The vakils had arrived late at night and spent the night or a greater part of it talking to their clients to bring about an amicable settlement. They assured me that apart from a little disturbance they expected that the procession would proceed quietly. I appealed to both sides to show tolerance and forbearance and did all in my power to avert a hurt of religious feeling to either party.

3. At about 8-20 the District Superintendent of Police and I returned to the camp ½ mile away and from private information received it was ascertained that the party of the Guru declared that they wanted people to precede the Guru shouting his name and also that he desired to stop at the house of each of his devotees to receive offerings. On the other hand, it was reported that the Panchachars intended to obstruct the Guru by throwing shoes at him by boys. Accordingly I sent for the respective vakils and some of the leaders to talk the matter over. The vakils for the Guru gave way on the point of shouting his name, and I refused the request to allow the Guru to descend at any house. The Lingayat

vakil

vakil from the other side assured me that shoe throw
being repulsive to Lingayats would not take place and
stated that the Panchachars would like the red umbrella
pensed with. The District Superintendent of Police refus
to omit the umbrella from the Parashernalia as it had not
been stated to be objectionable when he granted the licence
and at my tent the vakils and about 30 people tried to
promise on the point. They failed to arrive at any de
but were on the best of terms and together we went to
village at 9-30 A.M. with the object that the police sho
march through the village and join the Swami about ½ mile
on the other side where he was timed to reach at 9-45 or
or 9-30 A.M. No one anticipated any trouble w
vakils engaged in the case. The reserve police about
strong were fallen in and led by the District Superi
of Police and accompanied by me marched through
as arranged. About 50 taluk police with lathi
the village at various places to control traff
part of the village was very quiet and not very
We proceeded about 2 furlongs through the villa
anticipation of trouble. But on turning to th
street the police were hardly able to get th
which obstructed their progress. The people
excited and were being roused by several as
armed with lathis. Some were carrying bul
or ploughshares and a great number appeared
The crowd closed in behind the police and a
roofs were thronged, the crowd numbered I shou
thousand. It was then that I decided that it
to bring the procession through as I realised tha
tion raised would be very great and probably lead to a
breach of the peace and rioting. So I decided to stop
procession and informed the people accordingly. The sy
obstruction had been well organised and undoubtedly man

the people imported for the occasion had been concealed during the earlier visit to the village. With one accord and wi'out any provocation or warning the police were subjected to a fusi. lade of stones, some resembling roofing stones. The fusillade came from both sides, from the house tops and from a menacing crowd in the rear who were advancing with the lathis referred to previously. It was a direct attack without any provocation. I called upon the crowd to desist and the Deputy Superintendent of Police also did so and at the same time produced the written order I had written previously in case of emergency and told the people that the procession would not take place. The Tahsildar on one side and my Magisterial clerk on the other also called out the contents of the order but the crowd was not amenable to reason. The stone throwing increased and the crowd was again asked to desist and keep quiet as there would be no procession. The stone throwing increased and the crowd, menacing the police, closed up un the situation became critical. At this stage the police had to turn back to back as the attack was coming from all sides and I was afraid for the safety of the police, who numbered about 40 against at least 2 to 3 thousand. The crowd could easily account for the police and then there would probably a serious bloodshed between the two rival parties. Accordingly I again warned the crowd through the Magisterial clerk, Tahsildar and Deputy Superintendent of Police that unless attack ceased and the crowd dispersed they would be fired . At that moment a great fusillade of boulders arrived fr all sides and a constable fell down as I thought dead while any others received minor injuries including my Magisterial clerk. I ordered the District Superintendent of Police to fire to be fired a volley of buck shot. This had no effect and while it was taking place I attempted to get through to order the procession to return to Palakal whence it started the opposition was so

(accompanied by the Tahsildar and Magisterial clerk telling the people on my order to cancel the procession) that I had to fall back on the police for protection. A second charge of buck shot was fired which also had no effect on the rioters who seemed determined to wipe out the police for they advanced with renewed vigour and the stone throwing increased. Finally a volley of ball was fired and this had the effect of making the people falter and the police were able to leave the village accompanied by stone throwing, the remaining opposition melting away. The man believed killed was taken into a house full of females where one supposed that he would be safe as the police could not take him outside the village, they being so weak in strength and requiring every available man to prevent bloodshed in case the 2 rival parties came into contact. The police marched along the open road and I ran ahead of them to the Swami and his procession. In the meantime the people swarmed from the village and halted outside. The police took a stand on roadway between the village and the procession while I went on to the Swami and under Section 144 Cr.P.C. cancelled the licence issued by the District Superintendent of Police and demanded its return. I produced the written order already prepared in case of emergency and obtained a signature to the same from his agent.

4. As soon as the Swami's procession with about one thousand followers turned, there was a great cry from the village I returned to the police, and while there the Tahsildar dashed up saying that the crowds, which were swarming over the fields were going to kill the Swami. The situation was serious. On one hand the Swami had about a thousand followers while the villagers (Panchachars) in the fields must have been three thousand strong. It was obvious that unless immediate steps were taken there would be great bloodshed. This information passed on to the District Superintendent of Police who directed his reserve force across to intervene and had to extend h

force. Even then parties tried to get round the flanks of the Swami's party, while our move was to keep them in check the Sadars reached their village. While this move was in progres showers of stones and boulders were rained on [illegible] was then that the Deputy Superintendent of Police had his head broken and one of the constables was knocked down. Stones were thrown on him and he was severely beaten with lathies. His injuries were so serious that he had to be brought into Hospet Hospital. While parties were trying to pass the flanks of the police, the main body approached the front of the police and refused to go back but adopted a most menacing attitude and one or two stones were thrown. It certainly looked as if resort to fire arms would again be necessary but one Panchachar whose name will be sent to you later for recognition worked in co-operation with the police and by sheer personality and an hour's hard work got the people to return to the village. The Sadars having retired about a mile remained to watch developments. So as not to further excite the feelings of the panchachars a small force of police and the Tahsildar were sent to induce them to retire to their village with the Guru. Small parties of rival sects managed to evade the small force of police and came to blows and there were a few cases of serious injuries from lathi beatings. The police remained in extended order in the cholam fields for about 1½ hours and when the parties had retired from view returned to camp by a circutious route avoiding a march through the village to excite feeling.

5. In the village, in the meantime there had been certain occurrences worthy of mention. The force of taluk police (1 Sub Inspector and 20 constables) armed with lathis only were taken to the middle of the village and virtually made prisoners while a large congregation of panchachars considered what steps to take with them. The injured man left in the house with females had been discovered and had been bound to a post. The Panchachars

were

were out to murder him but for the timely rescue by Mr. Narayana Rao [illegible] at the risk of being maltreated himself.

6. On our return to camp, I learned that the police were still prisoners. The Tahsildar warned me that it was not safe for me to enter the village, so I sent word to the Karnam (a Brahmachar) that I would hold him responsible for their safety and that he must send them out to the camp at once. After an hour or so, the police came out unharmed

7. Enquiries proved that in the village the casualties were 3 killed 3 seriously wounded and 11 slightly wounded; while the police had 5 seriously injured and 11 slightly injured. The facts of the riot were wired by me to the District Magistrate as soon as reliable information from the village could be obtained and Medical aid was summoned from Hadagalli (10 miles distant). The riot subsided as suddenly as it arose and things were more or less normal by evening. The incomers were returning to their villages as quickly as possible and this morning unaccompanied I toured the village and found everything normal

8. To prove what an organised thing the riot was it is only necessary to examine the casualties. Of the 17 [illegible] casualties, only 6 belong to Uthangi, while some belong to villages 20 miles away (Kottur). Six of the casualties were to the head and some to the forearm. In my opinion the showers of stones we encountered were really intended for the procession had it come on. The people had been roused to a mood frenzy and nothing could stop them. So when the police appeared on the scene, they received the treatment that was reserved for the Swami. I am convinced that had the mob not been fired on most of the police would have been killed

seriously injured and then there would have been untim
bloodshed between the parties outside the village. The po
force was totally insufficient to deal with such a situati
and it is fortunate that when both parties were out in the
fields that neither side rushed at the police because noth
could have stopped them. As I have said before, the one
Panchachar saved the situation. There is one matter to be
thankful for and that is that the Guru never got nearer to
village than ½ a mile. Had he entered the village, there
would have been wholesale slaughter which nothing could pre
as the people were determined to have him whether he came w
paraphernalia or not. It appears to me that people had been
summoned from the whole countryside in order to riot and t
they were bent on causing mischief and would not be deter
This is proved by the fact that although the people were no
fied that the procession would not take place, they still
sisted with their unwarranted attack upon the police and go
ment officials. During the fray, the Police made two arres
but could not hold their prisoners. Up to the present, the
have identified 21 persons as being concerned in the ri
prove the determination of the rioters it is only neces
state that one of the wounded (now removed to Bellary f
ment) was found to have 5 buck shot wounds and one ball
which proves that he still persisted in attacking even
being wounded. The three dead received ball wounds in t
head, chest and abdomen respectively, and the other woun
examined all bore frontal wounds.

(Sd) E.W. Doig.

Joint Magistrate

(True Copy

-10-1925 I [illegible] where was then no sign
[illegible] route. On 19-10-[illegible] [illegible] the
the route laid down for the procession along with the
[illegible] Reserve and marched my party of 40 Reserve through the
village. Every thing was quiet and there were not [illegible]
At about 8-45 A.M. the Police for the parties appeared before
the Joint Magistrate and after friendly discussion brought the
points at issue down to the very narrow one of the sole objec-
tion by the obstructionists party to the use of the red umbrella
by the "Swami". They could not agree on this point and as it
was one of the terms of my licence granted in July and to which
no objection had been raised from the very start of the contro-
versy. I refused to alter the licence. Subsequent events show
that the anti-processionists had made up their minds apart from
their wishes to object to and prevent the procession in any
terms whatever.

The Joint Magistrate, myself and the four Police left
our tents at about 9-30 A.M. apparently in the best of humour
all round, and anticipating very slight, if any, obstruction.
I marched the Reserve into the village intending to meet the
procession about half a mile beyond the village where it had
arrived by that time. We got about half way through the vill-
age with no signs of obstruction whatever. Just as we turned a
bend of the street a shower of huge stones came from the street
and house-tops behind us with nothing whatever in the nature
of a warning. One constable fell seriously wounded just be-
hind side me and as I thought dead. I dragged him off the
road and handed over his arms. By this time several other
men fell also. I then faced a portion of the Reserve
about

[illegible] most the
[illegible] pected to be rush
trate then gave me permission to open fire
ordered portion of the party to fire with
no effect whatever on the mob except that the
[illegible] when were passed. I then fired one more
of buckshot but still to no effect. The situation loo
almost desperate by this time and I therefore fired
section volley of ball. This had the desired effect an
after a few minutes we were able to go where the "Swam
to stop his procession. The Joint Magistrate had alre
attempted to go on with the Tahsildar to stop the mob
but round the next bend of the street he was driven bac
upon the police with volley after volley of stones

We then proceeded outside the village to whe
procession was about half a mile from the entrance with
crowds in between. The Joint Magistrate there personally
served a notice upon the "Swamy" under Section 144 C.P.C.
and he at once turned his procession round. He took some
time in moving off and on this time a howling mob about 200
strong came towards us on the track from the village. They
remained at a distance of about one hundred yards for some
[illegible] were gradually worked up to a frenzy again an
a determined rush to outflank my party and threatening
some time to attack the retreating procession and kill
"Swami".

I had then to double the Reserve obliquely in
order across them through the cholam [illegible] as
[illegible] to execute this manoeuvre the Deputy Supe
Police. Hos[illegible] got a serious blow in the head

but he was fortunately able to carry on. One of the local Head Constables at the same time got knocked down by a stone and the crowd set upon him while on the ground with sticks, stones and bullock yokes. The left-hand man of my line seeing this fired one round which had the effect of driving away the would-be murderers and the Tahsildar went out and rescued him in a precarious condition. After this we had to carry him with us.

The crowd baulked in this outflanking movement then tried the other flank and we had to double back in extended order across both sides of the track. The crowd then gave up the flanks and approached from in front in a most desperate and threatening manner, brandishing all kinds of weapons. They came to within a couple of yards of my line and it looked as if I should have had to fire again for some anxious five minutes, as the crowd was altogether out of hand --with the exception of one most excellent youth of the anti-procession party who single-handed exhausted himself in his efforts to reduce them to reason. I have made a note of this youth's name as I consider he deserves a handsome reward for his efforts which I personally think were instrumental in avoiding further bloodshed.

We then stayed forming a stationary rearguard for the retreating procession for a considerable time and hoping that the frenzy of the mob would fizzle out. Unfortunately, a large body of the "Swami's followers came back and gathered about 400 or 500 yards on our right rear and stood there hurling insults and challenges at the party in front of us. The latter again tried to outflank us a great distance to get at this party of the "Swami's" followers. I could not cover the whole front with my men as they were already extended to the utmost limit consistent with safety and as both the rival mobs were approaching each other I tried the ruse of

firing

firing a musket myself into a field between them. This ruse was successful for short periods until the challenges etc. came again from either party.

I sent men to warn the "Swami's" party to clear out and this they did but it took them a long time before they had all gradually retreated to some distance. We then simply remained in our position for about two hours until all had gone from both sides and the country side was fairly clear. In returning to our camp I avoided the village as I thought that our return just then might give rise to another riot On reaching the camp we found that 1 S.I. and about 20 local constables were kept prisoners in the village. The Joint Magistrate sent word to the Karnam that he would hold him responsible for the men and to ~~the~~ see that they got a safe conduct out of the village. While prepared to go to their assistance if they were being molested in any way, we decided [illegible] to get them out of the village by ~~tactful~~ means if possible. Fortunately we succeeded. These men had been on ordinary street bundobast duty with lathis when we passed through the village and had I had the slightest idea of this wanton attack upon the Reserve party I would have taken them with me as I went.

The man whom I mentioned in the first instance as having been left for dead I had put into a house near where he fell before leaving the village. I discovered on my return that the mob had got hold of him and were about to finish ~~kick~~ him off when the timely arrival of Mr. Narayana Rao prevented [illegible] a calamity. This gentleman [illegible] sufficient influence with his party to induce them, at the risk of a beating to himself, to desist from their horrible intentions. I have thanked him for his timely action

The attack, then, on the Reserve was of the most wanton and unprovoked kind and came absolutely as a bombshell. The

only course was to fire upon the mob which was by then in huge proportions apparently the whole thing was well and carefully planned and most of the rioters were concealed when we first went through the village. If any further proof of a well-planned campaign were necessary, it is to be found in the casualties. Amongst the latter there were only two from Uttangi itself and the others all come from villages up to 15 and 20 miles from Uttangi.

The casualties amongst the rioters were 6 killed, 3 seriously injured., and eleven slightly injured, apparently by buckshot.

The Police casualties were 2 very seriously injured 3 seriously, and eleven injured.

Although no arrests were made, the local police can identify many of the rioters and a case has been registered under the appropriate sections. This is in the hands of Deputy Superintendent of Police, Hospet, the Inspector of Harpanahalli and Inspector Biddayya of Hospet who has previous experience of those parts.

Before closing I would like to add a word for the coolness and untiring tact and energy of Messrs. Rajagopa. Ayyangar and Biddayya. The Tahsildar of Hadagalli was a host in himself and the Magisterial Clerk of the Joint Magistrate was an untiring aid throughout the whole unfortunate incident.

Public Department.

NU 4807 A-2
2/11/25

Telegram.

To

Distrate.

Bellary.

Your report 1056 October 25th. riot Uttangi ~~Report details~~ Telegraph number made of ~~xxxxx~~ arrests ~~if any~~ ~~and action taken or proposed~~ further 2/11/25.

Telegraph Office
DESPATCHED
2 NOV 1925

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Bellary	3	21	10	X Ctc	21

TO

Recd here at 21/17 M.

CHIEF SECRETARY 4 NOV 1925 GOVT. OF MADRAS

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Arrested

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Public Department

Letter No. 4807A-2. dated 17. 11. 25.

1-3 to P.M.

E+D 169/11

DIARY 18 NOV 1925

To

The Secy to the Govt. of India
Home Department.

Sir,

Riot - Uttangi - Bellary - Continuation of my telegram dated 20-10-1925.

I am directed to report that the riot was the outcome of a longstanding dispute between two sects of Lingayats the Sadar and Panchachar sects--over the right of the Guru of the former sect to go in procession through Uttangi a village 70 miles from Bellary inhabited by Panchachars who contended that the Sadar Guru was not entitled to move in procession with the insignia of a Guru as their own Guru alone had such a right. After much litigation the Sadars obtained a decree from the High Court establishing the right of their Guru to proceed along the

rings highway with any harmless paraphernalia. The district authorities, consequently, took the view that the Sadar Guru was entitled to exercise his right under law provided that there was no exceptional danger of a breach of the peace and the Supt. of Police, Bellary, when issuing a licence for the procession confined himself to the determination of the paraphernalia that should be considered harmless.

2. On the morning of the 19th October the Joint Magistrate, Hospet, and the District Superintendent, except on one small point--came to an agreement with the Vakils for the two parties, and they had every reason to believe that the procession would be carried through without disturbance. At 7 A.M. the District Supt. of Police had marched his party of forty reserve police through the village of Uttangi without trouble and after his conference with the vakils and the Joint Magistrate and he proceeded through the village again in order to meet and conduct the Sadar Guru's procession which was within half a mile

from the village. The party got half way through the village without obstruction, but the Joint Magistrate then observed that large crowds containing a number of drunkards and harangued by speakers inciting them to violence and armed with lathis bullock yokes and parts of ploughshares had collected. He came to the conclusion that it would be unsafe for the procession to proceed and informed the crowd that the procession would be cancelled. No attention was paid to him and suddenly, without warning, the police party was pelted with large stones from the rear and from the roofs of houses. One constable immediately fell seriously injured and a number of others were hit. The District Superintendent of Police turned his men about and the mob was again warned. The stone-throwing continued with even greater violence and the D.S.P. with the permission of the Joint Magistrate ordered part of his force to fire

with buckshot. It had no effect on the mob except to excite them still further. One more volley of buckshot was fired but this too had no effect. Finding the situation desperate a volley of ball was fired and this cleared the street and the party were able to go through the village and put themselves between the mob and the procession. They were followed by a mob of about 2000 who made determined efforts to get at the Guru and his followers. To prevent this the police were compelled to extend between the mob and the procession party. It was only after the Sadar Guru and his party had withdrawn that the mob desisted and dispersed. During this time only one shot was fired at the mob to save a constable who had been knocked down and was being beaten to death.

3) The casualties as finally reported were 5 killed, 5 seriously injured and eleven slightly injured among the rioters; among the police two very seriously injured, three seriously injured and eleven injured among the rioters.

~~A note was put in two very seriously injured~~

Mss — 6 C19

enc 21.7 CR

three seriously injured and eleven injured.

The latest report from the D.M. shows that of the total number of 167 men liable to 151 have been arrested though subsequently released on bail. Cases have been registered under the appropriate sections and investigations are proceeding.

The outbreak was premeditated and carefully planned. Clear proof of this is that of the injured only two came from Uttangi itself. the remainder belonging to other villages, some as far as 20 miles from Uttangi. Still, the intelligence supplied by the local police and the village officers was singularly defective. This Govt. have no information whether any taluk police were posted in the village on the day and night previous to the day fixed for the procession. But it is incredible that the village officers and talavaris were totally ignorant

or the gathering on Panchachars and the arrangements that must have been made for the attack on the procession. The D.M. and the D.S.P. have been directed to take suitable action with reference to the conduct of the village officers and the police concerned.

4. The attack on the police was unprovoked and without the slightest warning and this fact coupled with that of the conduct of the mob in paying no heed to the repeated warnings of the authorities to desist from their attack justified in the opinion of this Government the firing on the crowd. ~~They consider that but~~ for the action of the Sub-Divisional ~~Magistrate~~ Magistrate and the D.S.P. assisted by his subordinates, the riot would have had disastrous consequences attended by a loss of life far in excess of that which actually occurred. This Govt. have ~~convoyed~~ their appreciation of the ~~services of all concerned and~~ conduct of the officers & men concerned in these proceedings

~~I am to enclose a copy of~~ a memo which is enclosed

No.1090 Public dated 11-11-1925 for the information of the Govt. of India.

It The proofs of police received not the slightest warning of the attack on them, and the Divisional Magistrate & Supt of Police had to consider not only the manner & danger in which the former first itself showed of disturbance but the practical certainty of the massacre of the police party if they failed to control the situation. In the circumstances this Govt considers that the firing on the crowd was fully justified

No 1090 Pol

11/11/25

K

T.M.R 12.11.25

Copy 13 11.11

Paris, Ukraine, Belarus, Baltic
Mr. 4807/A. Secret D/M. Belarus,
& 20.co. Sr

U.S.

Copies of the diagram
have been circulated to Mrs
H.M.s, Ministers & His
Excellency.

2. A draft telegram
to Sofia with reference to
para 1 (a) of E.O. No 75 Part
& 30.7.17 & subsequent.
Please see in this connection
Sofia's passage Sofia's letter on the
20.co.23 1-2 & Mr No 52 & Rec
& 5.6.25.

20/10/25

Fl. 16 & Pencilled
in head of diagram
letter.

7

9.X.25
20/10/25

C.S.

20.10.25

4 - 12 CP

Copies of HCP & HM reports to
be circulated to HE & all members of
Ministers.

23/10/25

V.C.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

The Grove,
Cathedral, Madras,
23rd October 1925.

CHIEF SECRETARIAT
23 OCT 1925
GOVT. OF MADRAS

CURRENT NO.
5020
PUBLIC

My dear Campbell,

Will you please send me the papers relating to the Lingayat Procession in Bellary on which the Government passed orders some time ago? Please also let me have the latest report of the rioting. The Associated Press Message says that seventeen police [redacted]s have been injured. Is that so?

I am,
Yours sincerely,

(Pt 5014) Hom Swarajatta telegram dt 19.10.25 p 14 CP

(Pt 5011) Hom Judy Office Conf No Ref 6181-17 dt 23.10.25 p 21 CP

Advance copies of the reports in Hp 4-12 CF have been circulated

2 Gen 300 Pub dt 10.24.25 referred to by HM in S.H.D. Flag (J)

3- The police casualties were 2 very seriously injured, 3 seriously injured and 11 slightly injured - vide pages 7 & 9 C.F.

Mr [redacted] on Superintendent's orders under Sec 30 of the Police Act had his own recorded and is put up at P 15 sup.

24/10/25

C.S.

General

In general D. is further requested to be awaited before inquiry is undertaken

24.10.25

C1 CPL 24/10/25

C4

C3

C2

H.I (as returned from leave)

This answers nearly all points which I ask D. to furnish & effaces any further reference is complete

CO 24.X.25
MC 25
R

24/10/25.

25 X 25.

Medical Officer

In appeal the doctor's note made subsequent after enquiries. He must be seen & with telegram telling him to call at once & D. supplied. D. has also Commissioner's Department or to hospital

Nr 22-26 (4-5860)
CR

From the D.M. Bellary; CM 1036/1-5-25 re:

Circulate for perusal

There appears to be a considerable defiance of authority & of the forces for the maintenance of law & order. The D. Magte. may be asked what steps he proposes to take to restore authority & to enforce & maintain law & order in the village

Revised

CPR

all
2.5.10 rs

C1 CPR 30/10/25
C4
C3
C0
HL

Inserted

Xpd no reason to continue the subsidy of the Police on the spot. In the event of fresh outbreak they will be ordered back

ZOM
2.11.25

The D.M. may be asked to report as recently as

[illegible] information as I may receive
I am content with the reports of
the papers as I know them to be
a thoroughly trustworthy & level headed
Press. But if the papers are seriously
disturbed - so far they have only
been challenged as heard of accounts
in the newspapers - the scene of the
Dr murder suggests will become
important. I find it hard to believe
how many persons be accessories
whether anyone of them were mere
Officials or Panchayat or Jadars.
I mean I suppose it is too late now
I mean any measures to spell almost
civil.

2. Apart from sentences on
the S.D.C. made report (A. & P. 27)
it would appear that the local
intelligence of the police & magistrate
was [illegible]. Reflection shows
the boundaries of one village headman
& karnam & talaiari to keep them
always informed of the [illegible]
[illegible] & the movements arrangements
but must [illegible] have been [illegible]
the persons are [illegible]. If they did
not know, [illegible]
[illegible]

the most important aspect of this matter
seems to me to be as far as the Police Magistracy
are bound to suppress this complacent
dicta of the Bench Court as to the rights
of persons to do things in a reasonable
manner when ~~everybody~~ everybody knows
that is no ~~defence to practice~~ probability whatsoever of the
things in question being done in a
reasonable manner.

Dr Farquhar's
draft the soundness of the Baglullah
view (in which I daresay he has good
authority) that it is the duty of the
"Magistrate to protect persons in the
"exercise of their lawful rights but
"that it was not to him to interfere
"in matters of such rights if the force
"at his command was not sufficient to enforce those rights
"without a serious breach of the
"peace" This view seems to be
attended with calculated to produce
Obstructions & Affrays: for those who
object to the exercise of rights
can resist and say to threaten subpoena
a breach of the peace and
to prevent the accomplishment of the act

demonstration set out of hands of
Govt in no case, the suspension
not withstanding

If it is not necessary
to hold or make further enquiry
I would suggest an appreciation of their
presence of mind & forbearance and
of the [illegible] & clearness of their
evidence. The Hon'ble Mr Sayer the D.S.P. the Dy
Supdt of Police the Subdr Inspr of the Dy Supdt of Police.

Yes
20/XI/25

1/
21.11.25

This file has been shown to me. I do not think any
further action is needed & I agree with the Hon'ble Mr Sayer
in his suggestion that a letter of appreciation of the services rendered
be addressed to Mr [illegible]

CHIEF SECRETARY
2ND NOV 1925
GOVT. OF MADRAS

2-11-25

Yes
Draft letter as suggested
2
before a report is
sent to the Govt. The D M
may if he suggested by Govt in
Proceedings be asked for
details of arrests. Drafts
are seen by Govt

Two letters are submitted
D 11.25
for signature
28/XI/25
3/11/25

Inspector-General of Police,

Madras Camp, 3rd November 1925

My dear Campbell,

The Uttangi Riot.

Sayers has written pointing out that the report given in the Madras Mail of the October 30th of the Hon. Member's statement regarding the Uttangi riot made in the Legislative Council, gives an inaccurate idea of what occurred, and says that any one comparing this account with his report which was published in the Press would infer that the Govt. had not accepted his statement as accurate.

You will see that the report in the Madras Mail is particularly brief. The main point upon which it differs from Sayers' report is that it would make it appear that the effective firing took place when the police were keeping the two rival parties apart whereas it actually occurred while the police were passing through the village, [redacted] to meet the procession and escort it through the village.

I have compared the account with those in

the Hindu, New India, and Swarajya of the same date, and I find that the same error as to the occasion on which the effective firing took pl... appears to run through all these accounts. The Madras Mail also says that a police man was killed which is not a fact.

I bring this to your notice in order to enquire whether the Govt. think it advisable to inform the Press that the reports of the Hon. Member's statement contain material inaccuracies.

I should be glad if I might be given a copy of the report sent to Govt. by the District Magistrate after his enquiry into the occurrence in order that I may see what view he takes of the conduct of the police.

Yours sincerely,

A.Y.G. Campbell Esq., C.S.I., C.B.E., I.C.S.,
Chief Secretary to Government,
M a d r a s.

D.O. No. 4807A-3.

Chief Secretariat,
Fort St. George,
dated 4th November 1925.

My dear Armitage,

Your D.O. of yesterday.

The inaccuracies which occurred in the reports of the Hon'ble Member's statement in the Legislative Council regarding the Uttangi Riot were noticed here but it was not thought worth while to draw attention to them by correcting them because the D.S.P's report had already been published and it is the intention of the Government to publish other papers with the Government order on the conduct of the Police as soon as possible. These papers will probably include the District Magistrate's report with such slight editing as may be necessary. Further if any formal notice is taken of the Hon'ble Member's statement, it must be with reference to the official report which will be published in the proceedings of the Legislative Council. The proof of that report has not yet been received. When it is received I will send it to you for your perusal before it is finally passed by the Hon'ble Member.

As I stated above the District Magistrate's report will probably be published shortly. He made no adverse comments on the Police. He considered that a resort to fire arms was unavoidable He concluded as follows:-

"As matters stood, there was no reason to apprehend a breach of the peace, and at the present moment, I can only surmise that the necessity for opening fire must have arisen in consequence of a sudden wanton attack on the Police force. Mr. Sayers who is also on the spot is a very level headed officer and I cannot believe that he would have had recourse to firearms unless it was unavoidably necessary. I am proceeding to the spot and shall submit a further report after due enquiry".

Yours sincerely,

O/C

Chief Secretary.

To F. Armitage Esq.

Inspector General of Police, Madras.

DSP
2.11.25

Ind for orders while
the undermentioned Correspondence
may be printed in the Co.
Courageie the opinion reached by
Court & published :—

p. 3 cf. [illegible] (1) - C.C.'s letter of 22-10-23 -
(2) - enclosure 6 (1) (ii) D.S.P's letter of
pp 4-8 cf. 21. 10. 23 omitting portion
within brackets.
pp 9-12 cf. (3) D.M.'s report of 20-10-23 omitting
portion within brackets.
pp 15-21 cf. (4) D.S.P's proceedings of 3.7.23
omitting portions within brackets.
pp 22-26 cf. (5) D.M.'s report of 21-10-23 omitting
portions within brackets
(6) enclosure 6 (5) (ii) Sub-divisional
p 26-32 cf. Magles report of 20-10-23

Jud 5-11-23 2. At draft report 6
Indian [illegible] Court
[illegible] case the case of a Hindu
[illegible] may be considered.
deals at some length with transactions
of M Hindu proceedings. I have examined the
3 & 4 of the DM 2nd report as they deal
with matters that will probably form the
subject of judicial
enquiry & the Memorandum are submitted
for approval & orders as to circulation

It is proposed to put the E.O. with the papers as noted in the E.T.

5-11-25.

Secret

C1 CRB 5/11/25

C2 [illegible] 5/11

HF

(Copies taken & sent to Press)

Fort St.George,

6th November 1925.

My dear Armitage,

I am directed to send you the enclosed proof of Sir C.P.Ramaswami Ayyar's statement in the Legislative Council about the Uttangi riot and to ask you to return it to me by noon to-morrow (Saturday) with any remarks you wish to offer on the accuracy of the statements of fact.

6.30 P.M.

Yours sincerely.

A.Y.G.U.

INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE · MADRAS ·

CHIEF SECRETARY 7 NOV 1925 GOVT. OF MADRAS

Madras
7. 11. 25

My dear Campbell,

Your letter of the 6th
I return the proof of the
Mettangi riot statement with
a note pointing out how
it differs from Sapers' report.

Yrs. sincerely,

[signature]

Shenoy
Summoned
all
7.11.25

Seen. The contradictions, such as they are
do not need a formal disclaimer when a Govt. statement

I move in connection with the correction may be made. (say, in December)

C.M.R.

7. XI. 25

N O T E .

CHIEF SECRETARY 7- NOV 1925 GOVT. OF MADRAS

The information available to me is Mr. Sayers' report dated 21st October 1925, a copy of which I sent to Government on 23rd October 1925. If the Hon. Member's statement is compared with this report it will be seen that the part of the statement at the bottom of page 3 and on page 4 does not agree with the account in the report.

The statement does not make it clear that the principal, and only effective, firing occurred in the village, but one would gather from the statement that it occurred when the police were trying to keep the two parties apart. This view is borne out by the portion lower down "They were between two groups of adversaries &c".

However Mr. Sayers says that outside the village the only firing was by one constable and by himself and that it did not cause casualties.

The statement also gives the idea that the effective firing caused the parties to withdraw whereas that occurred in the village and Mr. Sayers managed to hold them apart until the Sadar Guru procession had removed itself to a distance.

The above are the principal discrepancies.

I notice the following minor points :-

(1) Page 4 - The casualties reported by Mr. Sayers were among the rioters 3 killed, 3 seriously and 11 slightly injured and among the police 2 very seriously, 3 seriously and 11 slightly injured.

(2) Page 3 - 22 lines from the bottom - "It so happened that the Guru was a quarter of a mile from the village".

Mr. Sayers puts the distance at half a mile.

(3) Page 3 -"The red umbrella was an object of special aversion to the other sect".

The Government may have papers to support this but Mr. Sayers says in his report that it was not objected to in the discussion ending with the grant of the license but

D.O.No. 6807 A-2 Fort St.George.

Public 7th November 1925.

My dear Armitage,

Your D.O. of to-day about the Hon'ble Member's statement in the Legislative Council regarding the Ittangi riot.

I am desired to say that the Hon'ble Member does not consider that the discrepancies pointed out by you are such as need the publication of a formal disclaimer now, but when a later statement is made in the Council (say in December next), the opportunity may be taken to correct any misstatement.

Yours sincerely,

J. M. [illegible]

F.Armitage Esq.,
Inspector General of Police,
M a d r a s.

C. 13.11.25
R. 16.11.25

12.V.

A draft report to the G.O.I. & Govt. (It follows the form for Bigamy reports 2.11.25)

13/11/25

Submr.
12.11.25

CS.

Copy 13/11/25

13.11.V.

I approved. We need not send the G. of I a copy of our G.O. but may content ourselves with informing them of our ~~opinion~~ appreciation of the conduct of the Police (Mr. draft)

13-11-25

Pp 41—46 cy. Forwd. Letter (6) G of I. No. Jud. 1240 & 1507/25. 17.11.25

Pp 47—48 cy. Ftd. No. 5573 from DIG Bellary, dt 16.11.25

CS.

The D.M.'s report at Pp 47—48 cy. & submitted for perusal

21/11/25

Submr.
21.11.25

CS

21.11.25

C. 20.XI.25
Sent - Mr. 15
R. 21.11

Copy 21/11/25

RECEIVED
23 NOV 1925
SECRETARY TO GOVT. OF MADRAS

C.

Recd G.O. 22/11/25

Secrt. II-99—6,528—3-2-2

Public DEPARTMENT.

95

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. *Name of Paper*— The Hindu
2. *Published* Madras
3. *Dated*— 27-10-25

POLICE FIRING AT UTTANGI

HISTORY OF THE DISPUTE

POLICE VERSION QUESTIONED

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Bellary, October 26.—Among the Lingayats in India there are five great 'Mutts and Ujjini Mutt situate in the Kudligi Taluk of this District is one of them. These Mutts are presided over by 'Gurus' who have been from time immemorial privileged to have certain insignia of gurushipduring their tours such as 1. Cross palanquin 2. Vyasa Hastam, 3. Red umbrella, 4. Swetha Chattam, 5. Chamara, 6. Mena, 7. Nandi Dhwaja, 8. Panchakalasam, 9. Nagari on bulls, 10. Makara thorana. 11. Elephants horses, camels etc.

THE "SADAR" GURU'S MOVE

About 40 years ago there arose in Ujjini a dissentient set of Lingayats now commonly called 'Sadar' or 'Sadhu' Lingayats. They set up their own Guru, who founded a mutt known as 'Tarla Bala Mutt' in the Mysore Province in rivalry against the Ujjini Mutt. The Sadar Guru of this dissenting Mutt has been ever striving his utmost to establish his status of a Guru, and his right to be attended by all the insignia and the paraphernalia of the other gurus. The Panchachar Lingayats, who are orthodox followers of the Ujjini Mutt, and who form 95 per cent of the population of Lingayats of this District, have been stoutly resisting the claim of the Sadar Gurus.

Since the year 1890 several attempts have been made by the Sadar Guru, and his followers to secure a licence from the police and the Magistrate of this District for his procession attended by all the paraphernalia of a Guru. But, all of them proved abortive Sections 144 & 107 Cr.P.C., have been frequently used to prevent such processions on the ground that the procession if permitted would be stoutly opposed by the Panchachars, and that serious riot and blood-shed would result.

The first attempt of the Sadar Guru to enter the village of Uttangi with all the paraphernalia pertaining to a Guru was disallowed in 1890 by Mr. R. Sewell, who was the Collector of Bellary. From that time the Sadar Guru used to visit that village as an ordinary citizen without any paraphernalia. In 1907 and 1910 the attempts were repeated but were prohibited by the Magistrates. In 1910 the Sadar Guru filed a suit in the Court of the District Munsiff of Hospet for establishing his right to move in procession in the villages within the jurisdiction of the District Munsiff of Hospet, of which Uttangi is one, attended by

THE HIGH COURT JUDGMENT

The High Court, however, on appeal gave a modified decree in terms quoted below:—

"We think it desirable, however, to state the plaintiff's title as citizen-subject of His Majesty (and not as a real or alleged Guru, or in any other religious capacity) to go in procession with any harmless paraphernalia should be declared . . . . . We, therefore, give a decree for plaintiff declaring his right like any other member of the general public to move in procession through all the public streets within the jurisdiction of the District Munsiff of Hospet subject always to such directions as the Magistrates may lawfully give to prevent obstacles of the thoroughfares, and breaches of Public Peace."

ATTITUDE OF DISTRICT MAGISTRATES

After the High Court decree, attempts were made by the Sadar Guru in 1916, 1917, and 1918 to move in procession with the paraphernalia of a Guru, but the Taluk Magistrates of Hadagali prohibited him. In 1919 Mr. J. I. Smith, the District Magistrate refused permission. In 1920 Mr. Moscardi, the District Magistrate, refusing the licence observed that he was not competent as a magistrate to decide whether the Sadar Guru was a 'Guru', and if so, whether he was entitled to make any procession and what sort of procession. In 1921 the procession was arranged for, and Mr. Barter, the Joint Magistrate, who was present in the village, seeing the crowd that was gathered and the excitement that was prevalent, was afraid that there would be serious disturbance, and passed an order under Section 144 prohibiting the procession. In 1922, Mr. Molony, the District Magistrate, while prohibiting the procession remarked, "At present it appears to me that I could only secure his (Guru's passage) passage with his paraphernalia at the probable cost of blood-shed. My sole preoccupation is to prevent a riot, and so long as in my opinion the procession is likely to provoke a riot so long I shall continue to prohibit it."

MR. DUFF'S ORDER

In 1924 the Sadar Swami filed a petition before Mr. Duff, the District Magistrate, who gave permision for the procession by his order dated 10-10-21. The grounds for the permission are very curious, and I quote below a very interesting passage from the learned Magistrate's order:—

"A District Magistrate is not the authority to grant recognition of a Guru. Neither are the Civil Courts the authority. Their position is solely that of interpreters of law, custom and the evidence that is before them. A guru's recognition is by the King. The Panchachars admit that

C. 29. 10 of 1925. 1 of 7

192

DEPARTMENT.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. *Name of Paper*—

2. *Published at*—

3. *Dated*—

District Collector. I recognise the Sadar Guru as a Guru."

And he left the details of the insignia to be decided later on

Armed with Mr. Dun's permission the Sadar Guru approached Mr. Sayers, the D.S.P., for a licence for the procession, and he gave a licence for the procession on 3-7-25 in spite of the opposition of the Panchachars represented by their Vakil, Mr. P. Siva Rao, M.L.C., imposing a condition that only the emblems specified in his order should ..... pany the Guru in the procession.

RECENT EVENTS

On the 16th of this month Mr. Siva Rao approached the District Magistrate on behalf of some of the respectable members of the Panchachar community and represented to him that the feelings in Uttangi regarding this matter were very high, and that since the D.S.P., was determined to carry out the order to conduct the procession at the point of the bayonet there would be serious rioting and loss of life. But, the District Magistrate refused to interfere, and referred him to the Joint Magistrate of Hospet. Mr. Narayana Rao next day approached the Joint Magistrate and requested him to pass an order under Section 144 to stop the procession. The Joint Magistrate promised that he would be on the spot earlier and try for a compromise, and that if there should be any likelihood of breach of the peace he would at once issue an order under Section 144, Cr.P.C

CONFLICTING VERSIONS

After seeing the Police Report published in your paper of the 24th instant I made further enquiries regarding this affair, and the information I have gathered from persons who were on the spot at that time is at variance with the police version in the details given below:—

(1) It is not true that there was no opposition at the beginning of the controversy for the use of the red umbrella. Mr. Siva Rao repjresented to the D.S.P., before he granted a licence that there would be opposition for the accompaniment of any of the emblems of the Guru. It appears that on the morning of the occurrence Mr. Narayana Rao, Vakil for the Panchachars made the D.S.P., and the Joint Magistrate understand that if the Sadar Guru is not accompanied by the red umbrella he would arrange that the Panchachars should withdraw their opposition to the procession, but, that the Vakils of the Sadars refused to aggree to that condition.

(2) The opposition was not for the procession, but for carrying of emblems of Guruship.

(3) That the police did not take proper precautions to prevent people of neighbouring villages from congregating in Uttangi. It appears that the streets of Uttangi were full with thousands of people both Panchachars and Sadars even on the night of the 18th.

(4) That before stones were pelted the police pushed the people with the butt-ends of their rifles in order to make way for themselves through the crowd. And that this exasperated the crowd into pelting stones. That there was no premeditation to attack the police as is mentioned in the Police report.

(5) That proper warning was not given before the firing since in the din of the crowd no warning could be heard. That at the time the firing was commenced the Joint Magistrate was far away from the D.S.P., and communication with him was impossible.

(6) That it is not true that a Sub-Inspector and 20 constables were imprisoned in the village, or that their movements were in any way restricted by the crowd.

(7) That proper medical aid was not made available and that the injured people had to be without aid for more than a day after the firing.

(8) That the D.S.P. ought to have been some days earlier in the village to gauge the feelings of the people regarding the procesion.

(9) That besides the thre killed more than thirty were injured several of them getting very serious injuries.

Yheeno

Submitted.

29/7/25

98.18

C-6-11

197

DEPARTMENT.

67

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. *Name of Paper*— Swarajya,
2. *Published at*—
3. *Dated*— 4th November 25.

AFTERMATH OF UTTANGI RIOT

—o—

Mob Fury at Nilavanji

"Swarajya" Correspondent

HARPANAHALLE, Nov. 2.—In connection with Uttangi riots, the Police of this place were ordered to arrest 2 Lingayat runaways in a village called Nilavanji about 10 miles from this place. The whole village, though a small one, consists of Panchachars only. Yesterday the Sub-Inspector of Police and his Head Constable went to the village and secured the runaways, and were about to return, when the mob, all panchachars in frenzy, surrounded the police and rescued one of the two persons from the hands of the Head Constable by forcibly wrenching his thumb and attempted to attack the Sub Inspector. Luckily the Sub Inspector retreated with the person defending himself from the threatening fury of the mob by firing revolver shots in the air. The mob mostly consisting of infuriated and desperate women, pursued the Sub Inspector for 3 miles. The Sub-Inspector secured the person who is now kept in custody and though some danger was apprehended last night nothing untoward has happened

Submitted for orders
6/11/25.

6/11/25.

6/11/25

6/11/25

C.S. maybe added to Uttangi case for perusal

6/11/25

C.I.

7/11/25

SECRETARIAT
7 NOV 1925
GOVT. OF MADRAS

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7-NOV 1922 MADRAS

21322

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SECRETARIAT.

(a) If a paper is marked to be printed urgently, the Superintendent of the section concerned should sign the Press slip. The Superintendent should exercise a careful discretion in the matter.

(b) Each letter, memorandum, or order, or set of orders, in the file of correspondence should be headed in succession with the Roman numeral I, II, III, etc., the number being written in red ink or blue chalk above the item. The particular papers to be printed in the special issue-copies should be indicated by the Roman numeral (I, II, etc.) by which that item has been headed in the correspondence file. All matter, including marginal remarks or references, to be printed should be written in ink and matter which should not be printed should be encircled. Initials and signatures that are not quite legible should be re-written distinctly.

(b1) For rules regarding printing of notes, see rule 315 of the office Manual.

(c) The number of copies and the details of distribution should be filled in by the Superintendent or Referencer concerned.

(d) In the absence of special instructions to the Press to keep matter standing for a specified period, ordinary papers of 8 pages and under will be kept standing for *one* week, and larger papers for *two* weeks only. *The type of notes and of all confidential papers is distributed immediately after striking.*

(e) This slip, properly and completely filled in, should accompany every paper sent to Press; it will be returned by the Press when proofs are furnished; it should be sent to the Press when a call is made for revised proofs or when a corrected proof is sent for striking. When finally returned by Press it should be filed with the original order or letter

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PRESS.

(a) If, in the opinion of the Superintendent of the Press, a paper has been marked urgent unnecessarily, he should send the Press slip to the Registrar with a remark to that effect.

(b) Unless a note to the contrary is made against the matter, pencil entries should not be printed. The Superintendent of the Press may bring to the notice of the Registrar any instance of incomplete or careless editing.

(c) Signature copies of letters to the Secretary of State or to the Government of India should be printed on hand-made paper.

(d) This slip should be returned by the Press to the Secretariat when proofs are furnished; it will be sent back to the Press when proofs are returned corrected and should be finally returned to the Secretariat when struck-off copies are supplied.

(e) The names of the Secretary and Members should be printed in full when they occur on the right hand side, only the first time when they appear on the left side, the initials alone being printed later.

TO PRESS, MADRAS OOTY.

A

Please send proof in duplicate. The papers have been carefully edited.

Yuga. *Referencer.*
Clerk.

7.11.35

Supt.

B

Proof returned corrected. Please strike off and send number of copies as indicated.

Type may be released after usual interval. / at once.

Referencer.
Clerk.

Supt.

C

As the matter is clear manuscript and has been carefully edited, (*b*) proof need not be sent. Please print and supply number of copies as indicated.

Type may be released after usual interval.

Referencer.
Clerk.

Supt.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

Please send proof by Monday morning at 11 a.m.

Yuga
7.11.35

TO BE FILLED IN BY THE PRESS.

Diary.	Initials of Press official.
Received in Press on	
First proof furnished on	
Call for revised proof received on	
Revised proof furnished on	
Corrected proof received for striking on	
Final copies supplied on	

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Supplied to Secretariat for Record issue				
" " " "				4
" " " " or Extra E.T. copies to supply requisitions for sale to the public.				
For Volumes				
For supply to newspapers and institutions admitted to the privileges of the E.T				
Total ...				

Copy of letter from the Inspector General of Police R.C. No. 613 State of 25 dated the 22nd October 1925.

I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of a report received from the Superintendent of Police, Bellary, on the riot which occurred in connection with a procession at Uttangi on the 18th instant. A copy of the Superintendent's order dated 3rd July 1925 on the conduct of this procession will follow.

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Report from the District Superintendent of Police, Bellary, C.No. Incoming, of 1925, dated 21st October 1925.

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Illegal Procession - Rioting - Use of firearms by Police.

On 18th/October 1925 I arrived at Ullund and there was [illegible] any trouble. On 19-10-25 certain [illegible] laid down for the procession [illegible] the Joint Magistrate and [illegible] party of 40 Reserve through the village. Every thing was quiet and there were not large crowds. At about 8. a.m. the [illegible] for the parties appeared before the Joint Magistrate and after friendly discussion brought the matter at issue that is there were three of the said objections by the obstruction [illegible] to the use of the [illegible] by the "owned". They could not agree on this point and as it was one of the terms of my licence granted in duly and to which no objection had been raised from the very start of the negotiations I refused to alter the licence. Subsequently owned stated that until [illegible] removed their objections from their village [illegible] to any [illegible] prevent the procession in any [illegible].

The Joint Magistrate, myself and four [illegible] our lines to come down A.M. concentrically to the beat of drums all round and anticipating very slight, if any, obstruction. I [illegible] and [illegible] to meet the procession about half a mile beyond the village where we were led by this time, I was about half way through the village with no sign of obstruction whatever. Just as we were turned a band of the owned a shower of huge stones came from the direct [illegible] which we with nothing whatever in the nature of a weapon. One [illegible] personally received beside me and as I thought dead. I dragged him off the street and [illegible] over his arm. By this time several other men had been hit also. I then [illegible] portion for the Reserve about [illegible] and [illegible] turned the mob which was still hurling stones, &c. faster and more furiously than ever. The only result was the Inspector Bellary not his [illegible] and some sort [illegible] the crowd and the four [illegible] Other men were [illegible] casualties. The Joint Magistrate then gave me permission to open fire [illegible] of the party to fire with ammunition which had no effect whatever [illegible] ordered to retire then still further [illegible].

The situation [illegible]

insults and challenges at the party in front of us. The latter again tried to outflank us at a great distance to get at this party of the "swami's" followers. I could not cover the whole front with my men as they were already extended to the utmost limit consistent with safety, and as both [illegible] approaching each other I tried the ruse of firing a musket myself into a field between them. This ruse was successful for short periods until the challenges &c. came again from either party.

I sent men to warn the "Swami's" party to clear out and this they did but it took them a long time before they had all gradually retreated to some distance. We then slowly remained in our position for about two hours until all had gone from both sides and the country side was fairly clear. On returning to our camp I avoided the village as I thought that our return just then might give rise to another riot. On reaching the camp we found that 1 S.I. and about 20 local constables were kept prisoners in the village. The Joint Magistrate sent word to the Karnam that he would hold him responsible for the men and to see that they got a safe conduct out of the village. While prepared to go to their assistance if they were being molested in any way, we decided that it was better to get them out of the village by tactful means if possible. Fortunately we succeeded. These men had been on ordinary street bundobast duty with lathis when we passed through the village and had I had the slightest idea of this wanton attack upon the Reserve party I would have taken them with me as I went.

The man whom I mentioned in the first instance as having been left for dead I had put into a house near where he fell before leaving the village. discovered on my return that the mob had got hold of him and were about to finish him off when the timely arrival of Mr. Narayana Rao prevented such a calamity. This gentleman still had sufficient influence with his party to induce them, at the risk of a beating to himself, to desist from their horrible intentions. I have thanked him for his timely action

The attack, then, on the Reserve was of the most wanton and unprovoked kind and came absolutely as a bombshell. The only course was to fire upon the mob which was by then in huge proportions although the whole thing was well and carefully planned and most of the rioters were concealed when we first went through the village. If any further proff of a well-planned campaign were necessary, it is to be found in the casualties. Among the latter there

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were only two from Uttangi itself and the others all come from villages up to 15 to 20 miles from Uttangi.

The casualties among the rioters were killed 3 seriously injured, and eleven slightly injured, apparently by buckshot.

The Police casualties were 2 very seriously injured, 3 seriously, and eleven injured.

~~A case had been registered under the appropriate sections.~~

Proceedings of the District Superintendentof Police, Bellary.

F.Sayers Esquire.

Dated 3rd July 1925.

Bellary

Subject --- Procession at Uttangi.

READ: All the available literature on the subject

~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~

A pleader presented a petition requesting a license from me under Sec. 30 of the Police Act for his client who calls himself Gurusanthaswami, Pattadaswami of Sirigeri Mutt of Ujjini, to take procession through Uttangi Village with certain insignia of the office of the Guru of the community known as the Sadhu Lingavats. and requesting Police assistance to take the said procession.

8-2 Before going into the question of granting a license and fixing the ~~xxxxx~~ terms thereof, I must state briefly the position regarding this procession

There has been litigation going on touching the rights privileges and titles of the petitioner for a considerable number of years. Courts of all degrees and the Executive Heads of this District have passed orders on the subject. Of the Civil Court's orders the petitioner relies upon O.S. No. 32/1918 of Bellary District Court and the order in the interim injunction petition of the same Court in I.A. 237/1918.

The Counter-petitioners rely upon the orders contained in O.S. 304/1910 and A.S. 91 & 101/1912 both of which are referred to in appeal in S.A. 2496 & 2497/1913 of the Madras High Court

8-3 So far as I can see the object of all this litigation was to establish the right and title of the petitioner to go in procession as the recognised Guru of the sect of Sadhu Lingayats and the object of the Counter-petitioners was to prevent him doing so in order that he should not trespass on the established rights and religious privileges of their own Guru

Also, so far as I can see from the various orders passed the Courts refused to recognise the petitioner as a Guru on the ground that they had no power to do so and on account of the rule of the Government not to interfere in religious matters.

The net result therefore is that I must be guided by the

procession not as a guru, real or pretended, but as an ordinary subject of His Majesty with any harmless paraphernalia subject to the discretion of the Magistracy to issue such orders as they think fit to prevent obstruction of thoroughfares and breaches of the public peace. In other words the onus is thrown upon the Executive of deciding what paraphernalia is harmless and what is not.

I must therefore look at the problem from the point of view of the executive using the powers at their command for the purposes mentioned above.

In order to do this I must go into the more recent history of happenings in connection with this dispute.

I shall only go back as far as 1916 although attempts have been made to take this procession on the lines requested by the petitioner since 1891 or even earlier.

In 1916 the petitioner was prohibited from processing as a guru with insignia under Sec. 144 Cr.P.C. owing to an anticipated breach of the peace should he do so

In 1917 the Joint Magistrate, Hospet, passed an order that the petitioner should be allowed all assistance for the safe conduct of his ~~nax~~ procession. Upon this the police requested the Joint Magistrate to issue orders to the petitioner to take out a license for his procession and this was accordingly done. Thereupon arose a correspondence between the District Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate with the result that the District Magistrate ordered the withdrawal of the "Safe Conduct" order of the Joint Magistrate observing: "This is a matter within the discretion of the District Superintendent of Police or Deputy Superintendent of Police who issues the license as contemplated in S.c.30(2) of the Police Act V of 1861." Subsequently a license was issued excluding certain emblams and the petitioner processed through three villages in 1918 but was met with stout resistance at Uttangi where several thousands of the Panchacnar Lingayats assembled to prevent the further tour of the petitioner. The latter then applied for a Police Guard to conduct him but the District Superintendent of Police refused the same on the ground that the police could not at the time be spared and ordered the Deputy Superintendent of Police to cancel his license. This was done. Whereupon the District

advisable to prevent a breach of the peace. The Deputy Superintendent of Police then prescribed certain conditions for the license which were apparently not agreeable to the petitioner and after much more petitioning and counter-petitioning the matter again came before the District Magistrate in 1920. This Officer was requested to hold an enquiry into the conditions of the license and this he refused to do ~~xxxxxxx~~ saying that it was no part of his duty to adjudicate on such matters. The concludion portion of this order was "the attempt to issue a license th breaks down. as the conditions are the essential part of such a license and I cannot know what the conditions should be. No license will be issued and the parties are advised not to do anything which may ~~xxxx~~ occasion a breach of the peace." The same officer was again approached by the petitioner in 1921 and he issued the following order: "The Guru has announced his intention of making his procession on the 21st instant The District Superintendent of Police, the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Hospet, the Joint Magistrate, Hospet, the Deputy Magistrate Kayadrug, the Taluk Magistrates of Hadagalli and Kudligi and the Police Inspectors are therefore requested to be on the alert to prevent a breach of the peace by all lawful means and with the least possible use of force."

The result of this order was that a force of Reserve Police proceeded to the spot and also the Deputy Superintendent and Magistrates Joint and Taluk.

The procession started and opposition was shown at one place before it reached Uttangi, whereupon the Police fixed their bayonets. Further opposition was shown near Uttangi itself and a crowd variously estimated at from 5 to 6 thousand Panchachar Lingayats arrived there. The end was that the District Magistrate in response to information or ne received wired from Bellary to the Joint Magistrate to prohibit the further advance of the procession.

In 1922 a further attempt was made to take the procession and the then District Magistrate passed an order which included the following "All that the Courts have decided is that the Swami has a right, like everyone else, to go through the public street. This does not confer upon him the right to go about with paraphernalia considered by other to be injurious to their feelings. Nobody, so far as I know objects t

his going about as a private citizen or to [illegible]
disciples so long as he does so without certain paraphernalia. At present, as it appears to me, I could only secure his passage with his paraphernalia at the probable cost of bloodshed. I have no preconception in favour of or against the swami going in procession my sole preoccupation is to prevent a riot and so long as I in my opinion the procession is likely to provoke a riot, so long I shall continue to prohibit it."

* * *

The pleader advances the theory that any ordinary subject of His Majesty can go through the streets with ten elephants if he can command their attendance and caparisoned with any jewels and emblems he may wish to wear. I agree with him that this is so but only so long as there are no attendant circumstances which might hurt the susceptibilities of other subjects of His Majesty in such a manner as might lead to a breach of the peace. To take two examples (a) It is legal for Hindus to take processions with music while passing Mohammadan mosques

(b) It is legal for Mohammadans to take kine decoration through the streets preparatory to slaughter of the same.

These are elementary rights; yet they are set aside every year in India because other subjects object to them and because they are likely, if exercised, to lead to breaches of the peace and not because they are unlawful. Either of these things is "Harmless" when viewed by the persons wishing to do them but very different when viewed by persons who object to them. Who is to say what is "Harmful" and objectionable to his susceptibilities but the person concerned? The history of the works shows that all sorts of things are objectionable and harmful in one religion when viewed by adherents of another. It is the privilege of the followers of all religions to hate those of other the love of God. Sweet reasonableness and the ~~xxiiix~~ spirit of compromise are invariably lacking in matters where religious sentiments & susceptibilities are in question and I personally do not [illegible] present matter to graft that spirit on to a plant which is obviously alien to its growth. Every-body is reasonable until he himself is touched on the raw.

The pleader admits that his client's visits to his disciples will

which he wishes to use or without them.

Taking all the circumstances and history of this business therefore into consideration I am forced to the irresistible conclusion that if the petitioner goes in procession with any of the insignia of a Guru there will undoubtedly be a breach of the peace and possible bloodshed, if the police were to attempt in any way to take the procession with the help of the ~~police~~ force. While I hold this opinion I should be sadly lacking in my duties as head of the Police of this District if I issued a license for the procession in any other than the terms which follow. I have, perhaps, gone outside my province in setting forth the basis of my order at such ~~length~~, but I consider that the petitioner is entitled to my reasons in the place of a curt license to process without insignia.

O R D E R:

Gurusanthaswami, Pattadaswami of Sirigeri Mutt of Ujjini and now represented before me by the pleader is hereby permitted to go in procession through the village of Uttangi upon the following conditions:-

I. That he gives me seven days clear notice of his date of procession.

II. That he follow the route prescribed below.

III. That he does not use, carry.wear. or exhibit or allow his followers to carry or exhibit during the procession any one or other of the following insignia or emblems.

(a) Nandi Dhwajam
(b) Vyasa-Hastam
(c) Cross-Palanquin
(d) Pancha-Kalasam
(e) ~~Simha~~ Simha-Lalatam
(f) Sweta-Chatram
(g) Chelavadi -Gant
(h) Chamara
(i) Aphthagiri
(j) Nagari
(k) Caggari-Kattiga
(m) Makara Thorana
(n) Kahli.

IV. That he does not permit "Kudugas" to be recited or sung during the procession.

V. That the procession should not take more than six hours for its duration from start to finish and should be completed at least one hour before sunsent.

R O U T E.

From the village well at the South East corner of the village along the Eastern street northwards as far as the well at the junction of that street with the main street in which the large Hanuman Temple

leading to the tank, thence out of the village Northwards via the street leading to the tank.

C.A. F.Savers.

Supdt. of Police.

RD.

4/Mis. 1036/25

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11 Sept

onfidential. ublic Department.

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eport from the District Magistrate, Bellary.

To the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay.
ort St. George.

D.No.1036/25. Dated the 20th October 1925.

I write to confirm the following telegram sent last night.

"Lingayat procession at Uttangi licensed by Supdt for both. Joint Magistrate given - message begins Procession cancelled, serious rioting, police compelled to fire, casualties villagers three killed, three seriously wounded, eleven slightly wounded. Police casualties, two very seriously injured, three seriously injured, eleven slightly injured. Medical aid sought from Hadagalli. Situation now quiet. Report follows - message ends - Proceeding Uttangi shall submit further report. -

2. In Ujjini in Kudligi Taluk, there are two mutts, one of the Panchachar Lingayats and the other (a relative one) of the Jadar sect of Lingayats. There has been long standing feud between these two rival sects owing to the attempts of the Jadar sect to take their Guru in procession through streets, - villages 70 miles from Bellary, against the wishes of the Panchachars who contend that the Jadar Guru is not entitled to move in procession with the insignia of a Guru. The Jadar Guru filed a suit in the District Munsif's Court for a declaration of his right to go in procession with the insignia of a Guru. The litigation went as far as the High Court and it ended in the Court passing an order to the effect that the Jadar Guru may proceed along the King's highway like any other sur-

subject to such directions as the local authorities may lawfully give to prevent obstructions of the thoroughfare and breaches of the public peace.

3. In January 1934, the Nadar Mangayas applied to my predecessor Mr. Duff for permission to take their Guru in procession with all the insignia of a Guru. Mr. Duff after some enquiry ~~held that as collector of the license he could recognise the Nadar Guru as a Guru and could recognise his right to have cert in insignia. He accordingly~~ issued orders permitting the Guru to move in procession with certain specified paraphernalia. In this enquiry, two of the leaders of the Panchalar sect who acquiesced in the use of the said insignia by the Nadar Guru, appear to have expressly stated that they could not speak for other important leaders. Mr. Duff nevertheless permitted the procession as stated above and referred the petitioners to the District Superintendent of Police for a license under Section 30 of the Police Act in accordance with the terms of his order. The District Superintendent of Police however was strongly of opinion that the issue of a license permitting the Nadar Guru to go in procession with all the insignia allowed by Mr. Duff's order was likely to result in a breach of the peace, and he accordingly issued a license permitting only such of the paraphernalia allowed by Mr. Duff's order as he considered to be "harmless". This was in July last.

4. Against this order of the District Superintendent of Police and the modified license issued by him, the Nadar Mangayas preferred a revision petition. Mr. Duff admitted the petition and posted it for hearing. While the matter was at this stage, I took charge of the district on the 29th of August. After hearing the parties on both

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strike, Mr. V. Siva Rao, B.A., B.L., in support of the District Superintendent of Police's order and Mr. Manavalanga Pillai in support of the revision petition, I felt that it was not open to a Collector or District Magistrate to "recognise" any Guru or to define the proper insignia to be adopted by Religious Functionaries on occasions of procession. As however the High Court had declared the Sudar Guru's right to go in procession through the public streets like any other member of the general public with any "harmless" paraphernalia, the only question for consideration was whether the use of the insignia allowed by Mr. Duff was likely to result in a breach of the peace. On this point, the District Superintendent of Police had expressed himself very strongly and as he had already issued a license restricting the Sudar Guru to the use of only such insignia as he considered harmless and as there was not the faintest suggestion from Mr. Siva Rao or from any one else that the use of the insignia allowed by the license was likely to extend the/location of the disturbance, I declined to interfere with the terms of the license. Mr. Siva Rao was apparently satisfied with this decision. The fact that the Sudar Guru soon afterwards applied to the District Superintendent of Police for permission to move in procession on the 14th instant with the paraphernalia specified in the license showed that the Sudar Guru was likewise satisfied.

6. On the 14th instant as I was stepping at Nuwara Eliya the Joint Magistrate showed me a letter from the Deputy Superintendent of Police asking him to be present in Uttangi on the date of the procession as my presence was a breach of the peace. I instructed the Joint Magistrate to come in Uttangi as desired by the Deputy Superintendent of Police. I further told him that while it was the duty

of the Magistrate to protect persons in the exercise of their lawful rights, it was open to him to suspend the exercise of such rights if he found that the force at his command was not sufficient to enforce those rights without a serious breach of the peace, and I advised him to suspend the procession under Section 144 Cr.P.C. should such a contingency arise.

6. After my return to headquarters I had a talk with the District Superintendent of Police in the matter. He told me that the Deputy Superintendent (who has since been reverted for bad work) was an alarmist, and that ~~Mr. Ayyar~~ the pleader on behalf of the Archakars had approached him with a request to cancel or further modify the license issued, but as ~~Mr. Ayyar~~ the pleader had already acquiesced in the terms of the license and had even appeared in support of his order issuing the license he told him that he could not comply with his request. Mr. Sayers assured me that there was no reason to apprehend any breach of the peace if only the paraphernalia permitted by him were used, that there was no necessity to suspend or cancel the procession and that he would be present on the spot with a sufficient police force to regulate the procession and prevent any breach of the peace. ~~Mr. Ayyar~~ The pleader for the Parakarars meanwhile presented a petition to me containing the same request as that made to the District Superintendent of Police, and as the Joint Magistrate, was already on the spot with definite instructions how to act in the event of an emergency, I forwarded the petition to him..

7. As matters stood, there was no reason to apprehend a breach of the peace, and at the ~~as~~ present moment, I can only surmise that the necessity for opening fire must have arisen in consequence of a sudden wanton

attack on the Police force. Mr. Sayers who is also on the spot is a very level headed officer and I cannot believe that he would have had recourse to firearms unless it was unavoidably necessary. I am proceeding to the spot and shall submit a further report after due enquiry.

Report from the District Superintendent of Police, Bellary, C.No.1360/Genl. of 1925, dated 21st October 1925.

Uttangi Procession - Rioting - Use of firearms by Police.

On 16th October 1925 I arrived at Uttangi and there was then no sign of any trouble. On 19-10-25 morning at about 7.0 A.M. I went through the route laid down for the procession along with the Joint Magistrate and marched my party of 40 Reserve through the village. Every thing was quiet and there were not large crowds. At about 8.45 A.M. the Vakils for the parties appeared before the Joint Magistrate and after friendly discussion brought the points at issue down to the very narrow one of the sole objection by the obstructionist party to the use of the red umbrella by the "swami". They could not agree on this point and as it was one of the terms of my licence granted in July and to which no objection had been raised from the very start of the controversy, I refused to alter the license. Subsequent events showed that the anti-processionists had made up their minds apart from their vakils to object to and prevent the procession in any terms whatever.

The Joint Magistrate, myself and the four vakils left our tents at about 9-30 A.M. apparently in the best of humour

Copy of letter from the District Magistrate, Belgaum No.C. 1036/25 dated the 25th October 1925.

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Subject:-- Riot - Uttangi Village - Hadagalli Taluk - Further report submitted.

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* * * *

The facts of the occurrence, the circumstances under which the Police had to fire on the mob and the casualties and other details are fully set forth in the reports received ffrom the Joint Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police, copies of which are enclosed.

* * * *

* * * * *

From my local enquiry from the reports of the District Superintendent of Police, the Joint Magistrate, the Deputy Superintendent of Police and the Taluk Magistrate, I am convinced that the ryot was the result of a premeditated plan and a conspiracy ..... The District Superintendent of Police and the Joint Magistrate state that until the hour of the procession, there was quiet in the village and there were no visible indications of any intention to obstruct the Police o to create a breach of the peace. The obstruction and the stone throwing began as the Police got half way through the village and as the procession was still half a mile from the village. The obvious intention of the rioters was to prevent the police from reaching the procession and escorting it into the village. At this stage, the Joint Magistrate realising the seriousness of the situation, announced his intention of cancelling the procession, but the announcement was either disbelieved or it failed to make an impression on the turbulent mob. Admonition and warning were of no avail. There was an incessant shower of stones from the housetops as well as from the street and there was a menacing crowd

in the rear advancing with lathies, cart poles, and parts of plough shares. One of the constables was seriously injured and fell down unconscious and several others received by no means trivial injuries. The Joint Magistrate tried to go ahead to order the procession to turn back. but he was prevented from proceeding by volleys of stones. When eventually the mob attempted to close up with the police, the situation became critical. The odds were overwhelming and the life of the Officers and men was in jeopardy In the circumstances, a resort to firearms was unavoidable. Buck shot failed to produce the desired effect and it was the use of ball that brought the mob to their senses. The reports of all the officers on the spot show that fire was opened after due warning and that it ceased the moment it had the desired effect.

The subsequent conduct of the rioters both inside and outside the village -- their pursuit of the Police as the latter rushed forward to turn the procession back and prevent a collision, the serious injury caused to the Deputy Superintendent of Police and the still more serious injury caused to the Head constable, the repeated attempts of the mob to outflank or break through the Police and get at the Sadar procession, the attempt to make short work of the poor Constable whom they had already seriously injured and the wrongful confinement of the local Sub Inspector and his Constables in the village -- furnishes indubitable proof of a determination to defy the law and to disable the Police force.

If the Police had not opened fire, it is practically certain that they would have been rushed and overpowered and not only would the lives of the Officers have been imperilled but the mob have made for the Sadar procession, consisting of over a thousand men and a collision would have meant certain death to the Sadar Guru and serious bloodshed on both sides. Thus, the firing, although unfortunately it resulted in the loss of three lives and injuries of varying degrees of severity to fourteen others, averted a terrible catastrophe.

The injured persons are all progressiug favourably.

*****

Letter from the Joint Magistrate. Hospet. to the District Magistrate, Bellary. dated the 20th October 1925.

Unlawful Assembly - Hadagalli Taluk - Uthangi village -

In compliance with the requisition received from the Deputy Superintendent of Police. Hospet, I proceeded to Uthangi on the 18th October 1925 and reached the place at 2.45 P.M. I found that the village was quiet and not swelled by people from outside villages. The Deputy Superintendent of Police and the Tahsildar joined me later and reported that everything was alright. A force of taluk police was quartered in the village and the armed reserve remained on the tankbund outside the village. At about 3-30 or 4 P.M. the District Superintendent of Police arrived and together we proceeded as far as Ittigi. We also kept a lock out for incomers to Uthangi.

During the 4 mile drive we encountered about 50 men who being questioned stated that they were proceeding to neighbouring villages. mostly to Morigeri. village 4 miles from Uthangi. The vakils for the contesting sides were not then present. I gave instructions that I should like to see the vakil at 7 A.M. on the 19th instant but none came to my camp.

2. So then at about 7 A.M. the District Superintendent of Police and I accompanied by the armed reserve patrolled the village along the prescribed route for the procession. It was reported that a few hundreds of people had come to the village during the previous night. The place was quiet and the people orderly.. Outside the village ~~pamplexlining~~ along the prescribed route was an orderly throng of about 800 people lining the sides of the road and xx they stated, being questioned, that they had come to witness the procession. A great number of these were Madigas a d Bovas. We were joined by the vakils of the Panchachars and one or two of the leaders of that Sect and on the way back through the village I tried to find out from them what attitude the Panchachars were likely to adopt. The vakils had arrived late at night and spent the night or a greater part of it talking to their clients to bring about an amicable settlement. They assured me that apart from a little disturbance they expected that the procession would proceed quietly. I appealled to both sides to show tolerance and forbearance and did all in my power to avert a hurt of religious feeling to either party.

3. At about 8.20 the District Superintendent of Police and I returned to the camp ¼ mile away and from private information received it was ascertained that the party of the Guru declared that they wanted people to precede the Guru shouting his name and also that he desired to stop at the house of each of his devotees to receive offerings. On the other hand, it was reported that the Panchachars intended to obstruct the Guru by throwing shoes at him by boys. Accordingly I sent for the respective vakils and some of the leaders to talk the matter over. The vakils for the Guru gave way on the point of shouting his name and I refused the request to allow the Guru to descend at any house. The Lingayat vakil from the other side assured me that shoe throwing as being repulsive to Lingayats would not take place and they stated that the Panchachars would like the red umbrella dispensed with. The District Superintendent of Police refused to omit the umbrella from the Paraphernalia as it had not been stated to be objectionable when he granted the licence and at my tent the vakils and about 30 people tried to compromise on the point. They failed to arrive at any decision but were on the best of terms and together we went to the village at 9-30 A.M. with the object that the police should march through the village and join the Swami about ½ mile out on the other ~~side~~ side where he was timed to reach at about 9-20 or 9.30 A.M. No one anticipated any trouble not even the vakils engaged in the case. The reserve police about 40 strong were fallen in and led by the District Superintendent of Police and accompanied by me marched through the village as arranged. About 50 taluk police with lathis were posted in the village at various places to control traffic. The lower part of the village was very quiet and not very thronged.. We proceeded about 2 furlongs through the village without anticipation of trouble. But on turning to the right up a street the police were hardly able to get through a crowd which obstructed their progress. The people were greatly excited and were being roused by several agitators. All were armed with lathis, some were carrying bullock yokes and parts of ploughshares and great number appeared to be intoxicated. The crowd closed in behind the police and at the time the house roofs were thronged, the crowd numbered I should say 2 to 3 thousand. It was then that I decided that it would be folly to bring the procession through as I realised that the obstruction raised would be very great and probably lead to a grave breach of the peace and rioting. So I decided to stop the procession and informed the people accordingly. The system of obstruction had been well organised and undoubtedly many of the people imported for the occasion ~~a~~ had

had been concealed during the earlier visit to the village. With one accord and without any provocation or warning the police were subjected to a fusillade of stones, some resembling roofing stones. The fusillade came from both sides, from the house tops and from a menacing crowd in the rear who were advancing with the lathis referred to previously. It was direct attack without any provocation. I called upon the crowd to desist and the Deputy Superintendent of Police also did so and at the same time I produced the written order I had written previously in case of emergency and told the people that the procession would not take place The Tahsildar on one side and my Magisterial clerk on the other also called out the contents of the order but the crowd was not amenable to reason. The stone throwing increased and the crowd was again asked to desist and keep quiet as there would be no procession. The stone throwing increased and the crowd, menacing the police, closed up until the situation became critical. At this stage the police had to turn back to back as the attack was coming from all sides, and I was afraid for the safety of the police, who numbered about 40 against at least 2 to 3 thousand. The crowd could easily account for the police and then there would probably be serious bloodshed between the two rival parties Accordingly I again warned the crowd through the Magisterial clerk, Tahsildar, and Deputy Superintendent of Police that unless the attack ceased and the crowd dispersed they would be fired on. At that moment a great fusillade of boulders arrived from all sides and a constable fell down as I though dead while many others received minor injuries including my Magisterial clerk. I ordered the District Superintendent of Police to fire and he fired a volley of buck shot. This had no effect and while it was taking place I attempted to get through to order the procession to return to Talakal whence it had started. The opposition was so great with volleys of stones at me (accompanied

(accompanied by the Tahsildar and Magisterial clerk telling the people of my order to cancel the procession) that I had to fall back on the police for protection. A second charge of buck shot was fired which also had no effect on the rioters who seemed determined to wipe out the police for they advanced with renewed vigour and the ~~smoke~~ stone throwing increased. Finally a volley of ball was fired and this had the effect of making the people falter and the police were able to leave the village accompanied by stone throwing, the remaining opposition melting away. The man believed killed was taken into a house full of females where one supposed that he would be safe as the police could not take him outside the village, they being so weak in strength and requiring every available man to prevent bloodshed in the case the 2 rival parties came into contact. The police marched along the open road and I ran ahead of them to the Swami and his procession. In the meantime the people swarmed from the village and halted outside. The Police took a stand on the roadway between the village and the procession while I went on to the Swami and under Section 144 C.P.C. cancelled the licence issued by the District Superintendent of Police and demanded his return. I produced the written order already prepared in case of emergency and obtained a signature to the same from his agent.

4. As soon as the Swami's procession with about one thousand followers turned, there was a great cry from the village. I returned to the police, and while there the Tahsildar dashed up saying that the crowds, which were ~~xx~~ swarming over the fields were going to kill the Swami. The situation was serious. On the one hand the Swami had about a thousand followers while the villagers(Panchachars) in the fields must have been three thousand strong. It was obvious that unless immediate steps were taken there would be great bloodshed. This information I passed on to the District Superintendent of Police who directed his reserve force across to intervene and had to extend his force. Even then parties tried to get round the flanks to engage the Swami's party. while our move was to keep them in check until the Sadars

stones and boulders were rained on the police and it was then that the Deputy Superintendent of Police had his head broken and one of the constables was knocked down. Stones were thrown on him and he was severely beaten with lathies. His injuries were so serious that he had to be brought into Hospet Hospital. While parties were trying to pass the flanks of the police, the main body approached the front of the police and refused to go back but adopted a most menacing attitude and one or two stones were thrown. It certainly looked as if resort to fire arms would again be necessary but one Panchachar whose name will be sent to you later for recognition worked in co-operation with the police and by sheer personality and an hour's hard work got the people to return to the village. The sadars having retired about a mile remained to watch developments. So as not to further excite the feelings of the Panchachars a small force of police and the Tahsildar were sent to induce them to retire to their village with the Guru. Small parties of rival sects managed to evade the small force of police and came to blows and there were a few cases of serious injuries from lathi beatings. The police remained in extended order in the cholam fields for about 1½ hours and when the parties had retired from view returned to camp by a circutious route avoiding a march through the village to excite feeling.

5. In the village, in the meantime there had been certain occurrences worthy of mention. The force of taluk police(1 Sub Inspector and 20 constables) armed with lathis only were taken to the middle of the village and virtually made prisoners while a large congregation of Panchachars considered what steps to take with them. The injured man left in the house with females had been discovered and had been bound to a post. The Panchachars were out to murder him but for the timely rescue by Mr.Narayana Rao their vakil at the risk of being maltreated himself.

6. On our return to camp. I learned that the police were still prisoners. The Tahsildar warned me that it was not safe for me to enter the village, so I sent word to the Karnam,(aPanchachar) that I would hold him responsible for their safety and that he must send them out to the camp at once. After an hour or so, the police came out unharmed.

7. Enquiries proved that in the village the casualties were 3 killed, 3 seriously wounded and 11 slightly wounded; while the police had 6 seriously injured and 11 slightly injured. The facts of the riot were wired by me to the District Magistrate, as soon as reliable information from the village could be obtained and Medical aid was summoned from Hadagalli(10 miles distant). The riot subsided as suddenly as it arose, and things were more or less normal, by evening. The incomers were returning to their villages as quickly as possible and this morning unaccompanied I toured the village and found everything normal.

8. To prove what an organised thing the riot was, it is only necessary to examine the casualties. Of the 17 village casualties, only 2 belong to Uthangi, while some belong to villages 20 miles away(Kottur). Six of the casualties belong to Sogi and some to Morigeri. In my opinion the showers of stones we encountered were really intended for the procession had it come in. The people had been roused to blood frenzy and nothing could stop them. So when the police appeared on the scene, they received the treatment that was reserved for the Swami. I am convinced that had the mob not been fired on most of the police would have been killed or seriously injured and then there would have been unlimited bloodshed between the parties outside the village. The police force was totally insufficient to deal with such a situation and it is fortunate that when both parties were out in the fields that neither side ~~¢~~ rushed at the police because nothing could have stopped them. As I have said before, the one Panchachar saved the situation. There is one matter to be thankful for and that is that the Guru never got nearer to the village than ½ a mile. Had he entered the village, there would have been wholesale ~~slaughter~~ slaughter which nothing could prevent as the people were determined to have him where he came with paraphernalia or not. It appears to me that people had been summoned from the whole countryside in order to riot and that they were bent on causing mischief, and would not be deterred. This proved by the fact that although the people were notified that the procession would not take place, they still persisted with their unwarranted attack upon the police and Government officials. During the riot, the police made two arrests, but could not hold their

prisoners. Up to the present, they have identified 21 persons as being concerned in the riot. To prove the determination of the rioters it is only necessary to state that one of the wounded (now removed to Bellary for treatment) was found to have 5 buck shot wounds and one ball wound which proves that he still persisted in attacking even after being wounded. The three dead received ball wounds in front of head. chest and abdomen respectively, and the other wounded examined all bore frontal wounds.

Sd. E.W.Doig,
Joint Magistrate.

When received for Fair-copying. ....
When copied .. ..
When examined .. ..
When signed .. ..
When despatched .. ..

Riots and disturbances - Uttangi - Bellary Conduct of local officers - Appreciation of Govt. conveyed.

READ AGAIN G.O. No. ....., dated ..... 192 .

" " " " ....., " ..... 192 .

READ ALSO;—

C. No. ....., From the Inspr. Genl. of Police, No. C.613 Stat. I, dated 22-10-25 192

" " ..... " " D.M. Bellary C. " 1036 , " 20-10-25 II 192

" " ..... " " D.M. Bellary C. " 103 , " 25-10-25 III 192

ORDER.

No. 1090, dated 11-11-1925.

~~His~~.
Press

Resistance by violence to the execution of the Police Superintendent's order

The Govt. have perused the reports of the Inspr-Genl. of Police and the District Magistrate of Bellary, regarding the disturbances at Uttangi on the ~~19th October~~ 1925. The ~~riot~~ appears to have been premediated and carefully planned and the Govt. are satisfied that but for the action of the Sub Divisional Magistrate, Hospet, and the District Superintendent of Police assisted by ~~his~~ their subordinates, ~~assisted by his subordinates~~, the riot would have had disastrous consequence attended by a loss of life far in excess of that which actually occurred. The Government have no doubt that if fire had not been opened not only would the Police themselves have been in imminent danger ~~of destruction~~ but

it would have been impossible to protect the Guru and the followers of the procession from attack by the rioters. In the circumstances they do not find that more force was used by the authorities than was necessary to keep command of the situation and to protect the lives of the party who had been authorised to conduct the procession.

2. The Govt. desire to place on record their appreciation of the presence of mind and forbearance with which Mr. E.W.Doig, I.C.S., the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Mr. F. Sayers, the District Superintendent of Police and Mr. Kuvalavalli South Rajagopala Ayyangar, the Deputy Supdt. of Police handled the situation, and they are particularly pleased to note the staunchness with which the rank and file of the Reserve Police supported their officers, and the good work done by Mr. C. M. Biddayya, the Inspector of Police, the Tahsildar of Madagalli and the magisterial clerk of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate.

To the Inspr-Genl. of Police.
" District Magistrate, Bellary
E. T.

Government of Madras

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
11 NOV 1925

G.O. No. 1090. 11th November 1925

Riots and disturbances—Uttangi—Bellary—Conduct of local officers—Appreciation of Government conveyed.

READ—the following papers:—

I

Letter from the Inspector-General of Police, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 22nd October 1925, R.C. No. 613-Statl.

I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of a report received from the Superintendent of Police, Bellary, on the riot which occurred in connexion with a procession at Uttangi on the 18th instant. ~~[A copy of the Superintendent's order dated 3rd July 1925, on the conduct of this procession will follow.]~~

ENCLOSURE.

~~(1)~~

Report from the District Superintendent of Police, Bellary, C. No. 1460/Genl. of 1925, dated 21st October 1925.

[Uttangi Procession—Rioting—Use of firearms by Police.]

On 18th October 1925 I arrived at Uttangi and there was then no sign or any trouble. On 19th October 1925 morning at about 7 a.m., I went through the route laid down for the procession along with the Joint Magistrate and marched my party of 40 Reserve through the village. Everything was quiet and there were not large crowds. At about 8-45 a.m. the vakils for the parties appeared before the Joint Magistrate and after friendly discussion brought the points at issue down to the very narrow one of the sole objection by the obstructionist party to the use of the red umbrella by the "Swami". They could not agree on this point, and as it was one of the terms of my licence granted in July and to which no objection had been raised from the very start of the controversy, I refused to alter the licence. Subsequent events showed that the ante-processionists had made up their minds apart from their vakils to object to and prevent the procession in any terms whatever.

The Joint Magistrate, myself and the four vakils left our tents at about 9-30 a.m. apparently in the best of humour all round and anticipating very slight, if any, obstruction. I marched the Reserve into the village intending to meet the procession about half a mile beyond the village where it had arrived by that time. We got about half way through the village with no signs of obstruction whatever. Just as we turned a bend of the street a shower of huge stones came from the street and house tops behind us with nothing whatever in the nature of a warning. One constable fell seriously wounded just beside me and as I thought dead. I dragged him off the street and handed over his arms. By this time several other men had been hit also. I then faced a portion of the Reserve about and the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Mr. Rajagopal Ayyangar and Inspector Biddayya warned the mob which was still hurling stones, etc., faster and more furiously than ever. The only result was that Inspector Biddayya got hit and some more men. The crowd was the most threatening I have ever seen, and I momentarily expected to be rushed. The Joint Magistrate then gave me permission to open fire on the mob. I ordered portion of the party to fire with buckshot which had no effect whatever on the mob except to excite them still further if that were possible. I then fired one more volley of buckshot but still to no effect. The situation looked almost desperate by this time and I therefore fired a one section volley of ball. This had the desired effect and after a few minutes we were able to go where the "Swami" was to stop his procession. The Joint Magistrate had already attempted to go on with the Tahsildar to stop the procession but round the next bend of the street he was driven back upon the police with volley after volley of stones.

We then proceeded outside the village to where the procession was about a half mile from the entrance with no crowds in between. The Joint Magistrate there personally served a notice upon the "Swami" under section 144, C.P.C., and he at once turned his procession round. He took some time in moving off and in this time a howling mob about 2,000 strong came towards us on the track from the village. They remained at a distance of about one hundred yards for

some time but were gradually worked up to a frenzy again and made a determined rush to outflank my party and threatening at the same time to attack the retreating procession and kill the "Swami".

I had then to double the Reserve obliquely in extended order across them through the cholam fields. As soon as we started to execute this manœuvre the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Hospet, got a serious blow in the head from a stone, but he was fortunately able to carry on. One of the local head constables at the same time got knocked down by a stone and the crowd set upon him while on the ground with sticks, stone and bullock yokes. The left-hand men of my line seeing this fired one round which had the effect of driving away the would-be murderers and the Tahsildar went out and rescued him in a precarious condition. After this we had to carry him with us.

The crowd baulked in this outflanking movement, we then tried the other flank and to had to double back in extended order across both sides of the track. The crowd then gave up the flanks and approached from in front in a most desperate and threatening manner, brandishing all kinds of weapons. They came to within a couple of yards of my line and it looked as if I should have had to fire again for some anxious five minutes, as the crowd was altogether out of hand with the exception of one most excellent youth of the anti-procession party who single-handed exhausted himself in his efforts to reduce them to reason.

We then stayed forming a stationary rearguard for the retreating procession for a considerable time and hoping that the frenzy of the mob would fizzle out. Unfortunately, a large body of the 'Swami's' followers came back and gathered about 400 or 500 yards on our right rear and stood there hurling insults and challenges at the party in front of us. The latter again tried to outflank us a great distance to get at this party of the "Swami's" followers. I could not cover the whole front with my men as they were already extended to the utmost limit consistent with safety, and as both the rival mobs were approaching each other I tried the ruse of firing a musket myself into a field between them. This ruse was successful for short periods until the challenges, etc., came again from either party

I sent men to warn the 'Swami's' part to clear out and this they did but it took them a long time before they had all gradually retreated to some distance. We then simply remained in our position for about two hours until all had gone from both sides and the country side was fairly clear. In returning to our camp I avoided the village as I thought that our return just then might give rise to another riot. On reaching the camp we found that one Sub-Inspector and about 20 local constables were kept prisoners in the village. The Joint Magistrate sent word to the karnam that he would hold him responsible for the men and to see that they got a safe conduct out of the village. While prepared to go to their assistance if they were being molested in any way, we decided that it was better to get them out of the village by tactful means if possible. Fortunately we succeeded. These men had been on ordinary street bundobast duty with lattis when we passed through the village and had I had the slightest idea of this wanton attack upon the reserve party I would have taken them with me as I went.

The man whom I mentioned in the first instance as having been left for dead I had put into a house near where he fell before leaving the village. I discovered on my return that the mob had got hold of him and were about to finish him off when the timely arrival of Mr. Narayana Rao prevented such a calamity. This gentleman still had sufficient influence with his party to induce them, at the risk of a beating to himself, to desist from their horrible intentions. I have thanked him for his timely action.

The attack, then, on the reserve was of the most wanton and unprovoked kind and came absolutely as a bombshell. The only course was to fire upon the mob which was by then in huge proportions apparently the whole thing was well and carefully planned and most of the rioters were concealed when we first went through the village. If any further proof of a well-planned campaign were necessary, it is to be found in the casualties. Among the latter there were only two from Uttangi itself and the others all come from villages up to 15 to 20 miles from Uttangi.

The casualties among the rioters were 3 killed, 3 seriously injured, and eleven slightly injured, apparently by bukshot.

The police casualties were 2 very seriously injured, 3 seriously and injured.

Proceedings of the District Superintendent of Police, Bellary dated 3rd July 1925.

Procession at Uttangi.]

Read all the available literature on the subject.

A pleader presented a petition requesting a licence from me under section 30 of the Police Act for his client who calls himself Gurusanthaswami, Pattadaswami of Sirigeri Mutt of Ujjini, to go in procession through Uttangi village with certain insignia of the office of the Guru of the community known as the Sadhu Lingayats, and requesting Police assistance to take the said procession.

Before going into the question of granting a licence and fixing the terms thereof, I must state briefly the position regarding this procession.

There has been litigation going on touching the rights, privileges and titles of the petitioner for a considerable number of years. Courts of all degrees and the executive heads of this district have passed orders on the subject. Of the Civil Court's orders the petitioner relies upon O.S. No. 32 of 1918 of Bellary District Court and the order in the interim injunction petition of the same Court in I.A. No. 237 of 1918.

The counter-petitioners rely upon the orders contained in O.S. No. 804 of 1910 and A.S. Nos. 91 and 101 of 1912, both of which are referred to finally in S.A. Nos. 2496 and 2497 of 1913 of the Madras High Court.

So far as I can see the object of all this litigation was to establish the right and title of the petitioner to go in procession as the recognized Guru of the sect of Sadhu Lingayats and the object of the counter-petitioners was to prevent his doing so in order that he should not trespass on the established rights and religious privileges of their own Guru.

Also, so far as I can see from the various orders passed the Courts refused to recognize the petitioner as a Guru on the ground that they had no power to do so and on account of the rule of the Government not to interfere in religious matters.

The net result therefore is that I must be guided by the ruling of the High Court that the petitioner has got the right to go in procession not as a Guru, real or pretended, but as an ordinary subject of His Majesty with any harmless paraphernalia subject to the discretion of the Magistracy to issue such orders as they think fit to prevent obstruction of thoroughfares and breaches of the public peace. In other words, the onus is thrown upon the executive of deciding what paraphernalia is harmless and what is not.

I must therefore look at the problem from the point of view of the executive using the powers at their command for the purposes mentioned above.

In order to do this I must go into the more recent history of happenings in connexion with this dispute.

I shall only go back as far as 1916 although attempts have been made to take this procession on the lines requested by the petitioner since 1891 or even earlier.

In 1916 the petitioner was prohibited from processing as a Guru with insignia under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, owing to an anticipated breach of the peace should he do so.

In 1917 the Joint Magistrate, Hospet, passed an order that the petitioner should be allowed all assistance for the safe conduct of his procession. Upon this the police requested the Joint Magistrate to issue orders to the petitioner to take out a licence for his procession and this was accordingly done. Thereupon arose a correspondence between the District Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate with the result that the District Magistrate ordered the withdrawal of the 'Safe Conduct' order of the Joint Magistrate observing: "This is a matter within the discretion of the District Superintendent of Police or Deputy Superintendent of Police who issues the licence as contemplated in section 30 (2) of the Police Act V of 1861." Subsequently a licence was issued excluding certain emblems and the petitioner processed through three villages in 1918 but was met with stout resistance at Uttangi where several thousands of the Panchachar Lingayats assembled to prevent the further tour of the petitioner. The latter then applied for a police guard to conduct him but the District Superintendent of Police refused the same on the ground that the police could not at the time be spared and ordered the Deputy Superintendent of Police to cancel his licence. This was done. Whereupon the District Magistrate pointed out that the Police Officer had no power to cancel or refuse a licence, but that he could make the terms such as he deemed advisable to prevent a breach of the peace. The Deputy Superintendent of Police then prescribed certain conditions for the licence which were apparently not agreeable to the petitioner and after much more petitioning and counter-petitioning the matter again came before the District Magistrate in 1920. This officer was requested to hold an enquiry into the conditions of the licence and this he refused to do saying that it was no part of his duty to adjudicate on such matters. The concluding portion of this order was 'the attempt to issue a licence then breaks down, as the conditions are the essential part of such a licence and I cannot know what the conditions should be. No licence will be issued and the parties are advised not to do anything which may occasion a breach of the peace.' The same officer was again approached by the petitioner in 1921 and he issued the following order: 'The Guru has announced his intention of making his procession on the 21st instant. The District Superintendent of Police, the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Hospet, the Joint Magistrate, Hospet, the Deputy Magistrate, Raydrug, the Taluk Magistrates of Hadagalli and Kudligi and the Police Inspectors are therefore requested to be on the alert to prevent a breach of the peace by all lawful means and with the least possible use of force.'

The result of this order was that a force of Reserve Police proceeded to the spot and also the Deputy Superintendent and Magistrates, Joint and Taluk

The procession started and opposition was shown at one place before it reached Uttangi, whereupon the Police fixed their bayonets. Further opposition was shown near Uttangi itself and a crowd, variously estimated at from 5 to 6 thousand Panchachar Lingayats, (arrived there.) The end was that the District Magistrate in response to information or news received, wired from Bellary to the Joint Magistrate to prohibit the further advance of the procession.

* * * * * *

In 1922 a further attempt was made to take the procession and the then District Magistrate passed an order which included the following :—"All that the Courts have decided is that the Swami has a right, like everyone else, to go through the public street. This does not confer upon him the right to go about with paraphernalia considered by others to be injurious to their feelings. Nobody, so far as I know, objects to his going about as a private citizen or to his ministering to his disciples so long as he does so without certain paraphernalia. At present, as it appears to me, I could only secure his passage with his paraphernalia at the probable cost of bloodshed. I have no prepossession in favour of or against the Swami going in procession. My sole preoccupation is to prevent a riot and so long as in my opinion the procession is likely to provoke a riot, so long I shall continue to prohibit it."

* * * * *

The pleader advances the theory that any ordinary subject of His Majesty can go through the streets with ten elephants if he can command their attendance and caparisoned with any jewels and emblems he may wish to wear. I agree with him that this is so but only so long as there are no attendant circumstances which might hurt the susceptibilities of other subjects of His Majesty in such a manner as might lead to a breach of the peace. To take two examples—

(*a*) It is legal for Hindus to take processions with music while passing Mohammadan mosques.

(*b*) It is legal for Mohammadans to take kine decoration through the streets preparatory to slaughter of the same.

These are elementary rights; yet they are set aside every year in India because other subjects object to them and because they are likely, if exercised, to lead to breaches of the peace, and not because they are unlawful. Either of these things is 'harmless' when viewed by the persons wishing to do them but very different when viewed by the persons who object to them. Who is to say what is 'harmful' and objectionable to his susceptibilities but the person concerned? The history of the works shows that all sorts of things are objectionable and harmful in one religion when viewed by adherents of another. It is the privilege of the followers of all religions to hate those of others for the love of God. Sweet reasonableness and the spirit of compromise are invariably lacking in matters where religious sentiments and susceptibilities are in question, and I personally do not expect in the present matter to graft that spirit on to a plant which is obviously alien to its growth. Everybody is reasonable until he himself is touched on the raw.

The pleader admits that his client's visits to his disciples will be equally efficacious whether he goes with the insignia and emblems which he wishes to use or without them.

Taking all the circumstances and history of this business therefore into consideration, I am forced to the irresistible conclusion that if the petitioner goes in procession with any of the insignia of a Guru, there will undoubtedly be a breach of the peace and possible bloodshed if the police were to attempt in any way to take the procession with the help of the force. While I hold this opinion, I should be sadly lacking in my duties as head of the Police of the district if I issued a licence for the procession in any other than the terms which follow. I have, perhaps, gone outside my province in setting forth the basis of my order at such length, but I consider that the petitioner is entitled to my reasons in the place of our licence to process without insignia.

ORDER.

Gurusanthaswami, Pattadaswami of Sirigeri Mutt of Ujjini and now represented before me by the pleader, is hereby permitted to go in procession through the village of Uttangi upon the following conditions :—

I. That he gives me seven days clear notice of his date of procession

II. That he follows the route prescribed below.

III. That he does not use, carry, wear, or exhibit or allow his followers to carry or exhibit during the procession any one or other of the following insignia or emblems :—

(*a*) Nandi Dhwajam.
(*b*) Vyasa-Hastam.
(*c*) Cross-Palanquin.
(*d*) Pancha-Kalasam
(*e*) Simha-Lalatam.
(*f*) Swetâ-Chatram.
(*g*) Chelavadi-Ganta
(*h*) Chamara.
(*i*) Aphthagiri.
(*j*) Nagari.
(*k*) Caggari-Kathiga.
(*m*) Makara Thorana.
(*n*) Khali.

IV. That he does not permit "Kudugas" to be recited or sung during the procession.

V. That the procession should not take more than six hours for its duration from start to finish and should be completed at least one hour before sunset.

Route.—From the village well at the south-east corner of the village along the eastern street northwards as far as the well at the junction of that street with the main street in which the large Hanuman Temple stands, thence along this main street westwards as far as the street leading to the tank, thence out of the village northwards via the street leading to the tank.

F. SAYERS,
District Superintendent of Police.

II

Letter from the District Magistrate, Bellary, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated the 20th October 1925, C. No. 1036/25

I write to confirm the following telegram sent last night

"Lingayat Procession at Uttangi licensed by Dispol for to-day. Joint Magistrate wires—message begins—Procession cancelled, serious rioting, police compelled to fire, casualties villagers three killed, three seriously wounded, eleven slightly wounded. Police casualties, two very seriously injured, three seriously injured, eleven slightly injured. Medical aid sought from Hadagalli. Situation now quiet. Report follows—message ends—Proceeding Uttangi shall submit further report."

2. In Ujjini in Kudligi taluk, there are two mutts, one of the Panchachar Lingayats and the other (a smaller one) of the Sadar sect of Lingayats. There has been a longstanding feud between these two rival sects owing to the attempts of the Sadar sect to take their Guru in procession through Uttangi, a village 70 miles from Bellary, against the wishes of the Panchachars who contend that the Sadar Guru is not entitled to move in procession with the insignia of a Guru. The Sadar Guru filed a suit in the District Munsif's Court for a declaration of his right to go in procession with the insignia of a Guru. The litigation went as far as the High Court and it ended in the said Court passing an order to the effect that the Sadar Guru was entitled to proceed along the King's highway like any other subject of His Majesty with any "harmless" paraphernalia, subject to such directions as the local authorities may lawfully give to prevent obstructions of the thoroughfare and breaches of the public peace.

3. In January 1924, the Sadar Lingayats applied to my predecessor Mr. Duff for permission to take their Guru in procession with all the insignia of a Guru. Mr. Duff, after some enquiry, passed orders permitting the Guru to move in procession with certain specified paraphernalia. At this enquiry, two of the leaders of the Panchachar sect who acquiesced in the use of the said insignia by the Sadar Guru, appear to have expressly stated that they could not speak for other important leaders. Mr. Duff nevertheless permitted the procession as stated above and referred the petitioners to the District Superintendent of Police for a license under section 30 of the Police Act in accordance with the terms of his order. The District Superintendent of Police however was strongly of opinion that the issue of a licence permitting the Sadar Guru to go in procession with all the insignia allowed by Mr. Duff's order was likely to result in a breach of the peace, and he accordingly issued a licence permitting only such of the paraphernalia allowed by Mr. Duff's order as he considered to be "harmless". This was in July last.

4. Against this order of the District Superintendent of Police and the modified licence issued by him, the Sadar Lingayats preferred a revision petition. Mr. Duff admitted the petition and posted it for hearing. While the matter was at this stage I took charge of the district on the 29th of August. As the High Court had declared the Sadar Guru's right to go in procession through the public street like any other member of the general public with any "harmless" paraphernalia the only question for consideration was whether the use of the insignia allowed by Mr. Duff was likely to result in a breach of the peace. On this point the District Superintendent of Police had expressed himself very strongly and as he had already issued a licence restricting the Sadar Guru to the use of only such insignia as he considered harmless and as there was not the faintest suggestion from any one that the use of the insignia allowed by the licence was likely to offend the

feelings of the Panchachars I declined to interfere with the terms of the licence. The pleader for Panchachars was apparently satisfied with this decision. The fact that the Sadar Guru soon afterwards applied to the District Superintendent of Police for permission to move in procession on the 19th instant with the paraphernalia specified in the licence showed that the Sadar Guru was likewise satisfied.

5. On the 14th instant as I was camping at Hospet, the Joint Magistrate showed me a letter from the Deputy Superintendent of Police asking him to be present in Uttangi on the date of the procession as he apprehended a breach of the peace. I instructed the Joint Magistrate to camp in Uttangi as desired by the Deputy Superintendent of Police. I further told him that while it was the duty of the Magistrate to protect persons in the exercise of their lawful rights, it was open to him to suspend the exercise of such rights if he found that the force at his command was not sufficient to enforce these rights without a serious breach of the peace, and I advised him to suspend the procession under section 144, C.P.C., should such a contingency arise.

6. After my return to headquarters I had a talk with the District Superintendent of Police in the matter. He told me that the Deputy Superintendent (who has since been reverted for bad work) was an alarmist, and that the pleader on behalf of the Panchachars had approached him with a request to cancel or further modify the licence issued, but as the pleader had already acquiesed in the terms of the licence and had even appeared in support of his order issuing the licence he told him that he could not comply with this request. Mr. Sayers assured me that there was no reason to apprehend any breach of the peace if only the paraphernalia permitted by him were used, that there was no necessity to suspend or cancel the procession and that he would be present on the spot with a sufficient police force to regulate the procession and prevent any breach of the peace. The pleader for the Panchachars meanwhile presented a petition to me containing the same request as that made to the District Superintendent of Police, and as the Joint Magistrate was already on the spot with definite instructions how to act in the event of an emergency, I forwarded the petition to him.

7. As matters stood, there was no reason to apprehend a breach of the peace, and at the present moment I can only surmise that the necessity for opening fire must have arisen in consequence of a sudden wanton attack on the Police force. Mr. Sayers who is also on the spot is a very level-headed officer and I cannot believe that he would have had recourse to firearms unless it was unavoidably necessary. I am proceeding to the spot and shall submit further report after due enquiry.

III

Letter from the District Magistrate Bellery, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated the 25th October 1925. No. C. 1036/25.

[Riot—Uttangi village—Hadagalli taluk—Further report submitted.]

* * * * *

The facts of the occurrence, the circumstances under which the Police had to fire on the mob and the casualties and other details are fully set forth in the reports received from the Joint Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police, copies of which are enclosed.

* * * *

From my local enquiry from the reports of the District Superintendent of Police, the Joint Magistrate, the Deputy Superintendent of Police and the Taluk Magistrate I am convinced that the riot was the result of a pre-meditated plan and a conspiracy. The District Superintendent of Police and the Joint Magistrate state that until the hour of the procession, there was quiet in the village and there were no visible indications of any intention to obstruct the police or to create a breach of the peace. The obstruction and the stone-throwing began as the police got half-way through the village and as the procession was still half a mile from the village. The obvious intention of the rioters was to prevent the police from reaching the procession and escorting it into the village. At this stage, the Joint Magistrate, realizing the seriousness of the situation, announced his intention

poles, and parts of plough shares. One of the constables was seriously injured and fell down unconscious and several others received by no means trivial injuries. The Joint Magistrate tried to go ahead to order the procession to turn back, but he was prevented from proceeding by volleys of stones. When eventually the mob attempted to close up with the police, the situation became critical. The odds were overwhelming and the life of the officers and men was in jeopardy. In the circumstances, a resort to firearms was unavoidable. Buck shot failed to produce the desired effect and it was the use of ball that brought the mob to their senses. The reports of all the officers on the spot show that fire was opened after due warning and that it ceased the moment it had the desired effect.

of cancelling the procession, but the announcement was either disbelieved or it failed to make an impression on the turbulent mob. Admonition and warning were of no avail. There was as incessant shower of stones from the housetops as well as from the street and there was a menacing crowd in the rear advancing with lathis, cart

8. The subsequent conduct of the rioters, both inside and outside the village—their pursuit of the police as the latter rushed forward to turn the procession back and prevent a collision, the serious injury caused to the Deputy Superintendent of Police and the still more serious injury caused to the head constable, the repeated attempts of the mob to outflank or break through the police and get at the Sadar procession, the attempt to make short work of the poor constable whom they had already seriously injured and the wrongful confinement of the local Sub-Inspector and his constables in the village—furnishes indubitable proof of a determination to defy the law and to disable the police force.

If the police had not opened fire, it is practically certain that they would have been rushed and overpowered and not only would the lives of the officers have been imperilled but the mob have made for the Sadar procession, consisting of over a thousand men, and a collision would have meant certain death to the Sadar Guru and serious bloodshed on both sides. Thus, the firing, although unfortunately it resulted in the loss of three lives and injuries of varying degress of severity to fourteen others, averted a terrible catastrophe.

The injured persons are all progressing favourably.

ENCLOSURE.

Letter from the Joint Magistrate, Hospet, to the District Magistrate, Bellary, dated the 20th October 1925

[Unlawful assembly—Hadagalli taluk—Uthangi village

In compliance with the requisition received from the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Hospet, I proceeded to Uthangi on the 18th October 1925 and reached the place at 2-45 p.m. I found that the village was quiet and not swelled by people from outside villages. The Deputy Superintendent of Police and the Tahsildar joined me later and reported that everything was alright. A force of taluk police was quartered in the village and the armed reserve remained on the tank-bund outside the village. At about 3-30 or 4 p.m. the District Superintendent of Police arrived and together we proceeded as far as Ittigi. We also kept a lock-out for in-comers to Uthangi.

During the four mile drive we encountered about 50 men who, being questioned, stated that they were proceeding to neighbouring villages, mostly to Morigeri, a village four miles from Uthangi. The vakils for the contesting sides were not then present. I gave instructions that I should like to see the vakil at 7 a.m. on the 19th instant, but none came to my camp.

2. So then at about 7 a.m. the District Superintendent of Police and I accompained by the armed reserve patrolled the village along the prescribed route for the procession. It was reported that a few hundreds of people had come to the village during the previous night. The place was quiet and the people orderly. Outside the village along the prescribed route was an orderly throng of about 800 people lining the sides of the road and they stated, being questioned, that they had come to witness the procession. A great number of these were Madigas and Boyas. We were joined by the vakils of the panchayatdars and one or two of the leaders of that sect and on the

way back through the village I tried to find out from them what attitude the Panchachars were likely to adopt. The vakils had arrived late at night and spent the night or a greater part of it talking to their clients to bring about an amicable settlement. They assured me that apart from a little disturbance they expected that the procession would proceed quietly. I appealled to both sides to show tolerance and forbearance and did all in my power to avert a hurt of religious feeling to either party.

3. At about 8-20 the District Superintendent of Police and I returned to the camp $\frac{1}{4}$ mile away and from private information received it was ascertained that the party of the Guru declared that they wanted people to precede the Guru shouting his name and also that he desired to stop at the house of each of his devotees to receive offerings. On the other hand, it was reported that the Panchachars intended to obstruct the Guru by throwing shoes at him by boys. Accordingly I sent for the respective vakils and some of the leaders to talk the matter over. The vakils for the Guru gave way on the point of shouting his name and I refused the request to allow the Guru to descend at any house. The Lingayat vakil from the other side assured me that shoe throwing as being repulsive to Lingayats would not take place and they stated that the Panchachars would like the red umbrella dispensed with. The District Superintendent of Police refused to omit the umbrella from the paraphernalia as it had not been stated to be objectionable when he granted the licence and at my tent the vakils and about 30 people tried to compromise on the point. They failed to arrive at any decision but were on the best of terms and together we went to the village at 9-30 a.m. with the object that the police should march through the village and join the Swami about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile out on the other side where he was timed to reach at about 9-20 or 9-30 a.m. No one anticipated any trouble not even the vakils engaged in the case. The reserve police about 40 strong were fallen in and led by the District Superintendent of Police and accompanied by me marched through the village as arranged. About 50 taluk police with lathis were posted in the village at various places to control traffic. The lower part of the village was very quiet and not very thronged. We proceeded about 2 furlongs through the village without anticipation of trouble. But on turning to the right up a street the police were hardly able to get through a crowd which obstructed their progress. The people were greatly excited and were being roused by several agitators. All were armed with lathis, some were carrying bullock yokes and parts of ploughshares and great number appeared to be intoxicated. The crowd closed in behind the police and at the time the house roofs were thronged, the crowd numbered I should say 2 to 3 thousand. It was then that I decided that it would be folly to bring the procession through as I realized that the obstruction raised would be very great and probably lead to a grave breach of the peace and rioting. So I decided to stop the procession and informed the people accordingly. The system of obstruction had been well organized and undoubtedly many of the people imported for the occasion had been concealed during the earlier visit to the village. With one accord and without any provocation or warning the police were subjected to a fusillade of stones, some resembling roofing stones. The fusillade came from both sides, from the house tops and from a menacing crowd in the rear who were advancing with the lathis referred to previously. It was direct attack without any provocation. I called upon the crowd to desist and the Deputy Superintendent of Police also did so and at the same time I produced the written order I had written previously in case of emergency and told the people that the procession would not take place. The Tahsildar on one side and my magisterial clerk on the other also called out the contents of the order but the crowd was not amenable to reason. The stone throwing increased and the crowd was again asked to desist and keep quiet as there would be no procession. The stone throwing increased and the crowd, menacing the police, closed up until the situation became critical. At this stage the police had to turn back to back as the attack was coming from all sides, and I was afraid for the safety of the police, who numbered about 40 against at least two to three thousand. The crowd could easily account for the police and then there would probably be serious bloodshed between the two rival parties. Accordingly I again warned the crowd through the magisterial clerk, Tahsildar, and Deputy Superintendent of Police that unless the attack ceased and the crowd dispersed they would be fired on. At that moment a great fusillade of boulders arrived from all sides and a constable fell down as I thought dead while many others received minor

injuries including my magisterial clerk. I ordered the District Superintendent of Police to fire and he fired a volley of buck shot. This had no effect and while it was taking place I attempted to get through to order the procession to return to Talakal whence it had started. The opposition was so great with volleys of stones at me (accompanied by the Tahsildar and magisterial clerk telling the people of my order to cancel the procession) that I had to fall back on the police for protection. A second charge of buck shot was fired which also had no effect on the rioters who seemed determined to wipe out the police for they advanced with renewed vigour and the stone throwing increased. Finally a volley of ball was fired and this had the effect of making the people falter and the police were able to leave the village accompanied by stone throwing, the remaining opposition melting away. The man believed killed was taken into a house full of females where one supposed that he would be safe as the police could not take him outside the village, they being so weak in strength and requiring every available man to prevent bloodshed in the case the two rival parties came into contact. The police marched along the open road and I ran ahead of them to the Swami and his procession. In the meantime the people swarmed from the village and halted outside. The police took a stand on the roadway between the village and the procession while I went on to the Swami and under section 144, C.P.C., cancelled the licence issued by the District Superintendent of Police and demanded his return. I produced the written order already prepared in case of emergency and obtained a signature to the same from his agent.

4. As soon as the Swami's procession with about one thousand followers turned, there was a great cry from the village. I returned to the police, and while there the Tahsildar dashed up saying that the crowds, which were swarming over the fields, were going to kill the Swami. The situation was serious. On the one hand the Swami had about a thousand followers while the villagers (Panchachars) in the fields must have been three thousand strong. It was obvious that unless immediate steps were taken there would be great bloodshed. This information I passed on to the District Superintendent of Police who directed his reserve force across to intervene and had to extend his force. Even then parties tried to get round the flanks to engage the Swami's party, while our move was to keep them in check until the Sadars reached their village. While this move was in progress showers of stones and boulders were rained on the police and it was then that the Deputy Superintendent of Police had his head broken and one of the constables was knocked down. Stones were thrown on him and he was severely beaten with lathis. His injuries were so serious that he had to be brought into Hospet Hospital. While parties were trying to pass the flanks of the police, the main body approached the front of the police and refused to go back but adopted a most menacing attitude and one or two stones were thrown. It certainly looked as if resort to fire-arms would again be necessary but one Panchachar whose name will be sent to you later for recognition worked in co-operation with the police and by sheer personality and an hour's hard work got the people to return to the village. The sadars having retired about a mile remained to watch developments. So as not to further excite the feelings of the Panchachars a small force of police and the Tahsildar were sent to induce them to retire to their village with the Guru. Small parties of rival sects managed to evade the small force of police and came to blows and there were a few cases of serious injuries from lathi beatings. The police remained in extended order in the cholam fields for about one and half hours and when the parties had retired from view returned to camp by a circuitous route avoiding a march through the village to excite feeling.

5. In the village, in the meantime there had been certain occurrences worthy of mention. The force of taluk police (one sub-inspector and twenty constables) armed with lathis only were taken to the middle of the village and virtually made prisoners while a large congregation of Panchachars considered what steps to take with them. The injured man left in the house with females had been discovered and had been bound to a post. The Panchachars were out to murder him but for the timely rescue by Mr. Narayana Rao, their vakil, at the risk of being maltreated himself.

6. On our return to camp, I learned that the police were still prisoners. The Tahsildar warned me that it was not safe for me to enter the village, so I sent word to the karnam (a Panchachar) that I would hold him responsible for their safety and

that he must send them out to the camp at once. After an hour or so, the police can out unharmed.

7. Enquiries proved that in the village the casualties were three killed, three seriously wounded and 11 slightly wounded; while the police had six seriously injured and 11 slightly injured. The facts of the riot were wired by me to the District Magistrate, as soon as reliable information from the village could be obtained and medical aid was summoned from Hadagalli (ten miles distant). The riot subsided as suddenly as it arose, and things were more or less normal, by evening The incomers were returning to their villages as quickly as possible and this morning unaccompanied I toured the village and found everything normal.

8. To prove what an organized thing the riot was, it is only necessary to examine the casualties. Of the 17 village casualties, only two belong to Uttangi while some belong to villages 20 miles away (Kottur). Six of the casualties belong to Sogi and some to Morigeri. In my opinion the showers of stones we encountered were really intended for the procession had it come in. The people had been roused to blood frenzy and nothing could stop them. So when the police appeared on the scheme, they received the treatment that was reserved for the Swami. I am convinced that had the mob not been fired on most of the police would have been killed or seriously injured and then there would have been unlimited bloodshed between the parties outside the village. The police force was totally insufficient to deal with such a situation and it is fortunate that when both parties were out in the fields that neither side rushed at the police because nothing could have stopped them. As I have said before, the one Panchachar saved the situation. There is one matter to be thankful for and that is that the Guru never got nearer to the village than half a mile. Had he entered the the village, there would have been wholesale slaughter which nothing could prevent as the people were determined to have him where he came with paraphernalia or not. It appears to me that people had been summoned from the whole countryside in order to riot and that they were bent on causing mischief, and would not be deterred. This proved by the fact that although the people were notified that the procession would not take place, they still persisted with their unwarranted attack upon the police and Government officials. During the riot, the police made two arrests, but could not hold their prisoners. Up to the present, they have identified 21 persons as being concerned in the riot. To prove the determination of the rioters it is only necessary to state that one of the wounded (now removed to Bellary for treatment) was found to have five buck shot wounds and one ball wound which proves that he still presisted in attacking even after being wounded. The three dead received ball wounds in front of head, chest and abdomen respectively, and the other wounded examined all bore forntal wound

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Order—No. 1089, Public, dated 11th November 1925.

The Government have perused the reports of the Inspector-General of Police and the District Magistrate of Bellary regarding the disturbances at Uttangi on the 19th October 1925. The resistance by violence to the execution of the Police Superintendent's order appears to have been premeditated and carefully planned and the Government are satisfied that but for the action of the Subdivisional Magistrate, Hospet, and of the District Superintendent of Police assisted by their subordinates, the riot would have had disastrous consequences attended by a loss of life far in excess of that which actually occurred. The Government have no doubt that if fire had not been opened not only would the Police themselves have been in imminent danger but it would have been impossible to protect the Guru and the followers of the procession from attack by the rioters. In the circumstances they do not find that more force was used by the authorities than was necessary to keep command of the situation and to protect the lives of the party who had been authorized to conduct the procession.

2. The Government desire to place on record their appreciation of the presence of mind and forbearance with which Mr. E. W. Doig, I.C.S., the Subdivisional Magistrate, Mr. F. Sayers, the District Superintendent of Police, and Mr. Kuvalavalli South Rajagopala Ayyangar, the Deputy Superintendent of Police, handled the situation, and they are particularly pleased to note the staunchness with which the rank and file of the Reserve Police supported their officers. Their attention has also been drawn by Mr. Doig and Mr. Sayers to the good work done by Mr. C. M. Biddayya, the Inspector of Police, the Tahsildar of Hadagalli and the magisterial clerk of the Subdivisional Magistrate. The Government also desire to place on record their high appreciation of the conduct of Mr. Narayana Rao, the pleader for the Panchachars, in protecting at considerable risk to himself the wounded reserve policeman who had been left in the village when the main body moved off to meet the Sadar Guruland of the action of the Panchachar who co-operated with the police in inducing the rioters to disperse

(By order of the Governor in Council)

A. Y. G. CAMPBELL,
Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector-General of Police.
District Magistrate, Bellary.
litors' Table.

Copy to Judicial Dept
Revenue Dept

Confdl.

4507A-1

Memorandum No. ~~4507~~ dated 7-11-1925.

Riot - Uttangi.

From the reports received on the riot at Uttangi the Govt. observe that the intelligence supplied by the local police and the village officers would appear to have been singularly defective. They do not know whether any Taluk police were posted in the village on the day and night previous to the day fixed for the procession, but it is ~~unbelievable~~ incredible that the village officers and talayaris were totally ignorant of the gathering of the Panchachars and the arrangements that must have been made for the attack on the processio The District Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police should take suitable action with reference to the conduct of the villag officers and the police concerned.

2. The District Magistrate is also requested to report what steps he has taken or intends to take to restore authority and to enforce and maintain law and order in the villag.

5/11/25.

To the Collector and District Magistrate, Bellary.

Copy to the I.G. of Police.

5.11.25

Confidential.

Bellary Dt. Magistrate's Office,

Camp-Tungabhadra.

Dated 16th Nov. 25.

From

Khan Bahadur M. Bazlullah Saheb Bahadur, C.I.E.,O.B.E.

District Magistrate of Bellary.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,

Fort St. George, Madras.

CURRENT NO.
5513
PUBLIC

Sir,

Ref.-Government Memorandum No.4807 A-1 dated 7th Nov. 25.

The Sub Collector and Joint Magistrate, Hospet, was already instructed to take suitable notice of the failure of village officers to apprise the officers on the spot of the movements of the Panchachars and of the contemplated attack on the Sadar procession. I have now asked him to report the action taken in the matter.

The Deputy Superintendent of Police, Hospet, informs me that the Taluk Police were present in the village on the day and night previous to the day fixed for the procession and that they actually turned back many Panchachars who were coming from other villages into Uttangi by cart or on foot. But from the nature of the case, it was not possible to effectively prevent ingress during the night into the village which is practically open on all sides.

2. As regards para 2 of the Memorandum, one hundred and fifty six persons, believed to have participated in the riot, have been arrested up to date. An identification parade has been held and as a result of it, a charge sheet is being laid against about 125 persons for rioting and other offences.

The procession in question is not a periodical or --- recurring one. It was intended merely to establish the right of the Sadar Guru to go in procession through Uttangi. The Sadar Guru has fled back into the Mysore territory and I do not think after the terrible experience he has had, he would seriously think of making another attempt to go in procession through Uttangi for some time to come. At any rate, he has so far not moved in the matter and for obvious reasons, it is not advisable to invite him to do so. If and when he does apply for a license, effective steps will be taken to ensure the peaceful conduct of the procession, calling in reinforcements from adjoining districts in sufficient numbers to overawe resistance and enforce obedience to law.

Dt. Magistrate.

16/25

Received ..... 192 : *Registered* 192

CURRENT NO. 5665 PUBLIC.

Subject.

UTTANGI RIOT

Confidential

ENCLOSURES.
No. .....
.....
Spare copies .....

No.

Station Mylapore, Madras , *Dated the* 24th. November 1925 .

From (Name) F. Armitage Esq.,

(Designation) Inspector General of Police, Chief

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Public Department.

Sir.

Public Department Memo No. 4807 A-I dated 7-II-25.

With reference to the above memo I have the honour to enclose an extract from the report of the Dt. Superintendent of Police Bellary dated I6-II-25 on the steps - taken by the police to keep themselves informed of, and to prevent, any influx of people from outside into - - Uttangi.

2- It will be seen that the Dy.Superintendent took a large force of Taluk police, consisting of the Inspector, 5 S.Is. 6 Head Constables and 60 Constables to Uttangi on the morning of the I8th and that from 4 P.M. -

that evening until the time of the riot on the I9th. Police were posted at the approaches to the village who turned away many persons coming in from outside.

The Dt.Superintendent of Police is of the opinion that the outsiders, who got into the village, did so at night -- under cover of the cholam crops and were concealed in houses of Panchachars. The stones thrown from the roofs of t h e - houses do not appear to have been collected but to have been torn from the buildings. The police had examined the house-tops and found no collection of missiles. The Dt.Superintendent of Police lays stress upon the fact that from the demeanour of the parties there were no signs that rioting would take place until it suddenly broke out and he is of the opinion that it was a sudden outburst of fanatical frenzy aroused by the belief that, the procession, which the Panchachars had always expected to be stopped at the last moment, would actually take place unless forcibly prevented. This theory is contrary to that expressed in the first reports, which was based upon the facts that the majority of the casualities were from outside villages and that a large number of persons h a d come in from outside. It is impossible to say how much premeditation and organization there were but clearly no signs of the organization of violent opposition were evident.

3. In reply to my question as to what action he contemplated taking in the case of the local police on the Government Memo under reply, on the ground of their intelligence having been at fault the Dt. Superintendent of Police reports that in the above circumstances he does not intend to take any action - and he assumes the full responsibility himself.

4. I find that the police did take precautions on a sufficiently large scale, which were defeated to some extent by the local conditions, and also that it is clear from the reports of the Dt.Superintendent of Police and the Joint Magistrate that the feeling shown by the parties through their vakils and leaders -

leaders right up to the time of the riot was not such as to raise apprehensions of organized forcible resistance and that probably there were no signs of any such resistance capable of being observed by the police stationed in the village.

I am, therefore, decidedly of the opinion that no blame can be attached to the Police for not foreseeing what was going to happen.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE.

Police. Bellary dated I6-II-25 on Chief Office Endorsement dated 9-II-25 on Govt. Memo No.4807 A-I dated 7-II-25.

With regard to para I of the endorsement, I have to state that I intend to take noaction so far as the police are concerned for the following reasons.

The local Policeunder my instructions took every possible precaution both to prevent collection of materials for rioting and the entry of outsiders into Uttangi.

On I5-IO-25 Mr. Rajagopal Ayyangar took charge of the Hospet Sub-Division and I sent him at once to this locality. He arrived at Ittagi(the seat of the nearest Police Station and 4 miles from Uttangi) at about II.30 P.M. on I6-IO-25. He went to Uttangi in the early morning of I7-IO-25 and made enquiries all that day and returned to Ittagi the same evening.

On I8-IO-25 at 5-30 A.M. he marched a force of Taluk Police consisting of I inspector 5 Sub-Inspectors, 6 Head - Constables and 60 Constables from Ittagi to Uttangi as well as the Reserve force which had arrived at Ittagi late on -- I7-IO-25 night.

There was no sign of anything unusual all day on -- I8-IO-25, but at 4 P.M. Taluk Police were posted at all - usual entrances and footpaths leading into the village (it is a very straggling village with possible entrances for foot-passengers at all points of the compass) and these - men, with few reliefs, were on duty from 4.P.M. on I8-Io-25 continuously till next morning and until the riot occurred.

These Taluk Police succeeded in turning away many - persons and in stopping many carts and all these went away quietly on being warned to do so.

The outsiders who did get into the village must have done so in ones and twos, taking advantage of the darkness

darkness and the high cholam crops growing right up to the houses on some sides of the village, andhaving got into the village, remained concealed in the houses of the Panchachars of which there are about 600. It would have been humanly impossible to have excluded these persons. Suffice it to say that the great bulk of those desiring to get into the village were successfully kept out entirely due to the strenuous and unceasing nightling efforts of the Taluk Police.

We were quite well aware that there were a certain number of outsiders in the village but there was absolutely nothing to show at any stage that they or others intended to riot in the way they did. That opposition would be expected to the procession is patent but I, for one, expected it to take the form of more or less passive resistence by getting persons to lie on the road &c.

With regard to collection of stones &c. on the house-tops the evidence is all the other way. The size of most of the stones thrown would show clearly that they were not stones which anybody would collect to hurl in a riot as they were too large for such an occasion. They appeared to me to have been torn haphazard from buildings and small compound walls in the village. The Police made careful search of house-tops &c and duly reported to me that there did not appear to be any such collection of missiles.

A furtherfact, on due consideration, will show that the riot must have occurred very suddenly. I refer to the fact that numbers of the crowd armed themselves with the yokes of carts and ploughs and the side-sticks of carts andplough-shares &c which are not usual weapons.

It may be asked now, why did the riot occur suddenly and to my mind there is only one reasonable answer. The people had been buoyed up with the assurances of their Vakils and leaders of their community that the procession would be prohibited at the last moment. The Vakils and leaders actually did appear

appear just before we left our camp for the village and came with us to the edge of the village where they left us. It is a curious fact that we got half-way through the village before any attack was made and then the attack came from --- behind. To my mind, therefore, the only solution is that the news of the leaders and Vakils spread rather hurriedly - through the crowd, up to that time perfectly orderly, and that news must have taken the form of absurd lies to the effect - that the Reserve Police were just then going to bring t h e procession through the village in spite of any opposition.

To anybody accustomes to the psychology of the mob, it will be evident that such news would have the same effect as a match applied to petrol amongst a people known to be hyper-fanatical on religious affairs. If anybody else who was not at the place can offer a more reasonable solution, he may be relied upon, but he will not be believed by me.

/True Estract/

INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE.

[illegible]

P.1 cy. Issued Memo no. 4507 A-1 of 7.11.25
P. 2 cy. cpo 5573 from D M, Bellary, no. 5, 15.11.25

The D M's report
Submitted for perusal.

Sub.
21.11.25.
V.S.E.M.
21.11.25.

A.C.H.
21.11.25.
A.Y.G.C.
21.11.25.

Seen.
C.P.R.
22.11.25

pp 4—9 cy. cpo 5685 from C.S. of Police of 24.11.25

The D.M. in his report now submitted for perusal has stated that the riot was a sudden outburst in contrary to the view previously taken by local authorities & endorsed by Govt in Go. no. 1090 Pub of 11.11.25. It is not clear whether the D.M. has been apprised of this change

Section marked at pp 2 & 4 of Go.

The change of view is a little disconcerting - but it seems to call for no action. The Dm P4 at (f), the Dep P2 at (g) the Jr Mr Sena & P7 at (g) have all up to now adopted the opposite view.

1/12/25

Cs.

Did the I.G. visit Uttangi himself? Has he his own programmes?

1.12.25

Submitted that the I. G did not visit Uttangi after 18.10.1925.

The IG has not been sending regular tour programmes - we get his annual & the previous reports & a half yearly programme. The telephone message [illegible] of folly on the part of the office.

4/12/25

Please let me have a statement with reference to this letter IS is not correct & send his tour programme - then we can answer the subject

4.12.25

Echert taken

Cs.

I do not feel that the present explanation of the D.S.P. is very satisfactory. The D.S.P. has changed his views as to the outbreak of the riot

persons from outside villages had come there with perfectly innocent intentions although they had ~~not~~ had to avoid the police order to get into the village. It is difficult to imagine that they came there merely to witness the rival Sunnis procession & not to take steps if necessary to stop it.

This, I think, is why that the I.G. did not himself proceed to the spot & enquire into the matter. There is nothing to show that even the Dr I.G. went: however it is probably of no use to send either now

~~He further explanation that should~~

No further action by the D-hqrs - in addition to that which he has taken & is taking - seems to be necessary now as the Sadar Sum has fled.

agd 4.12.25

Nov 31
C 4.12
R 4.12

C1 No further action is called for COR

C2 Like a true Irishman Mr Sapru is quite prepared 7/12/25
HG to change his ground & doesn't see that the result must be that nobody can believe him! I don't think this remarkable volte face (occasioned apparently merely because it was reported that the local intelligence dept might & then been better) should be suffered to pass without remark. I quite realise that it is not practicable to bring home ~~[illegible]~~ responsibility for this matter now dis

~~I~~ Inclined to suspect this, but if all that in mere hints at first was true (as I have no reason to believe it otherwise) the present version is erroneous. Innes Thompson point out that the complainin the DSO now seeks to put on the affair differs materially from his view taken at his premises report & from that taken by the Magistrate & that the facts are unable to accept it as correct.

C.9.12
R.15.12

Mc
8/12

I agree with my hon. colleague C.J.

12 · XII · 25.

Draft memo is submitted.

Draft issued EC1 & CO 11.1.26

If After issue of the memo. the papers may be sent direct to original by CO-20. Pass J

11.11.25

17/12/26.

Bon 42

C.16.12
R.18.12

C.S.

16/12/25

17.12.25

C1 CPol 18/12/25

TOUR PROGRAMME OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE

FOR THE MONTHS OF OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 25.

120

OCTOBER.

7-IO-25	From	Madras	to	Nellore
8 to II/IO		Halt.		Do.
I2-IO-25	From	Nellore	to	Kavali.
I3-IO-25.	"	Kavali	to	Bitragunta and back.
I4-I0-25.	"	Kavali	to	Venkatachellam) Savarapalli)
I5-IO-25.	"	Savarapalli	to	Venkatachellam
"	"	Venkatachellam	to	Madras.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

NOVEMBER.

NIL.

I.G. did not visit Uttangi after I8th. October 25.

Copy forwarded to the Superintendent, Public Dept. Secretariat with reference to his Telephonic Message on the same.

/True Copy/

For Asst. Inspector General of Police

Tour programmes of H.E. the Governor, Hon'ble Members and Ministers.

Date.	H.E. the Governor.	Hon'ble Finance Member	Hon'ble Revenue Member.	Hon'ble Home Member,	Hon'ble Law Member.	Hon'ble Chief Minister.	Hon'ble Minister for Education,	Hon'ble Minister for Dev.	Remarks.

Public Deptt.

Memorandum 4807 A-3. 1925

CONFIDENTIAL

Riot, Uttangi, Bellary - Letter from the I.G. of Police, dated 24-11

P. 447.

The Govt. observe that the opinion expressed by the D.S.P., Bellary in his report dated 16-11-1925 that the riot was not premeditated, differs materially from the view taken by him in his previous report, C.No.1460/Govt/Genl. dated the 21st October 1925 and by the D.M., Bellary, in his report No.C.1036/25 dated the 25th Oct 25. The I.G. of Police is informed that the Govt. are unable to accept the D.S.P's revised opinion of the nature of the riot as correct.

P. 767.

pp 1-2 of Go. 1090 Pub J. 11.11.25.

P. 4 of Go. J

A.C.H.
17-12-25

A.Y.G.C.
17-12-25

To

The I.G. of Police.

Spl. 21/12

12/
W/x.

Extract from the Fortnightly Report from the Collector of Bellary dated 28th September 28

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* * *

The Sadar Lingayat Swami whose procession at Uttangi in 1925 produced a situation in which the Police were forced to shoot wishes to proceed in procession at the same place on October 10th I have discussed the matter with the D.S.P., who is applying for 90 Reserve Police from other districts. We shall have a force of about 190 Reserve and 100 Taluk Police which should be enough to take the procession in peace. The D.S.P. and I shall both be present.

Copy to Public and put up with earlier file.

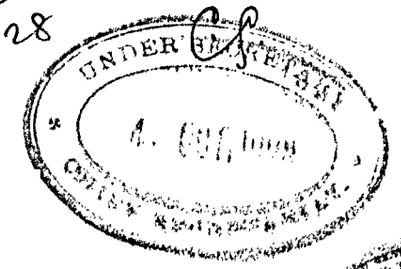
M.W.W.M.Y.
1-10-1928.

Pub(Gnl) Dept

The reports from the S.P. & the D.M. of Bellary on the riot which occured in connection with the Lingayat procession at Uttangi ~~in October~~ 1925 are on M 1-4 of fo 1090 Pub of 11.11.25 S on pg 8 the Govt's orders on those reports are on

2K 1.10.28

MJ. 1.10.28



Ag 4-10.

2/10

C2 MK

3/17x

Extract from the Fortnightly Report from the Collector of Bellary dated 14th October 1928.

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x x x

Owing to the outbreak of plague three miles from Uttangi the D.S.P., in consultation with me has cancelled his licence for the Lingayat procession.

x x x

Copy to Public.

M.W.W.M.Y.
16-10-1928.

Public Deptt

Submitted for perusal

Mvj. 16.10.28

25

VK 16.10.28 C.S.

1

Box

Secy 17.10.28.4

Cr

Mvj. 17/10/28

CHIEF SECRETARY 18 OCT, 1928 GOVT. OF MADRAS.

17 OCT, 1928

Submitted the pp. may be lodged